

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

March 27th, 2024, 2PM

Board Member Attendance: Lindsai Gentry, Elizabeth Highsmith, Rex Gerlinger, Bill Tinley, Jesse palmer III, Jenna Maddox, Roxanne Reid

Board Member Absence:

Staff Member Attendance: Don Lively, Trinetta Skinner, Emma Mullis

Other Attendance: Ashley Roberts, Ashley Neeley, Nan Lynch, Lindsey Keller

- 1) **Meeting was called to order by Chair Gentry at 2 pm**
- 2) **Review and approve/change/accept minutes from previous meeting on January 24th, 2024.**
 - a) **Motion to approve Elizabeth Highsmith**
 - b) **Second Bill Tinley**
 - c) **Approved X Not Approved _____**
- 3) **Review and approve/change/accept minutes from called meeting on March 12th, 2024**
 - a) **Motion to approve Bill Tinley**
 - b) **Second Jesse Palmer III**
 - c) **Approved X Not Approved _____**
- 4) **Partner Reports:**

- a) **Chamber of Commerce: Ashley Roberts reported that the Chamber sponsored “Lunch and Learn” was very successful. The Chamber is in the process of updating the website. The Chamber will be promoting Burke County during the upcoming Masters week.**
- b) **D.O.O.R: The fundraising for Boss Hog is going very well. The “new” Boss Hog will be Mickey Stewart.**
- c) **Archway: N/A**

5) Old Business:

- a) **Don Lively informed the board that there are several opportunities for DDA “basic training”, the required training for DDA board members, available in 2024. One will be as a part of the Georgia Municipal Association conference in Savannah on Friday, June 1st. Another will be at the Georgia Downtown Conference in Thomasville on August 26th. Board members who have not attended the training will need to go through it this year.**
- b) **Mad Anthony’s Big Boom. Don Lively has begun fundraising for the fireworks show which will be on Wednesday, July 3rd. He has already received \$4450 in addition to a \$899.09 surplus from last year. The cost of the show did not increase over last year.**
- c) **Downtown Public Restroom Project. The board discussed the progress on the building site. There will be a final Zoom meeting with UGA Engineering student, Tinsley Martin, who is drawing the plans for the building as part of an Archway project, on Wednesday, April 3rd.**
- d) **Movies Under The Stars. The board agreed to host the event during Georgia Cities Week. Administrative Assistant to the City manager, Emma Mullis, will work with the board to decide on the movie to be shown.**

6) New Business:

- a) **Don Lively informed the board that Wild Roots Salon has scheduled a soft opening for Monday, April 1st, a ribbon cutting on Thursday, April 4th, and a grand opening on Saturday, April 6th.**
- b) **Don Lively informed the board that two different parties have expressed interest in the two-story building adjacent to Bird Dog**

Beverages. Both would include retail on the first floor and residential on the second floor.

- c) Jenna Maddox, on behalf of other downtown merchants, asked about the status of the directional signage. Don Lively stated that the project had slowed due to the health issues of the sign contractor but that there are clear plans in place. It was also requested that follow-up emails could be sent after the monthly Downtown Merchants meeting for those unable to attend.**
- d) Trinetta Skinner introduced Mr. Mike Abebe to the board. Mr. Abebe has plans for a large housing development in the old pecan orchard across from Pineland Bakery. The project would eventually be 1800 housing units. He hopes to have houses completed and for sale by next spring. Lots for private building might also be available.**
- e) Jesse Palmer III suggested that the City look into the idea of “nose-in/angled” parking for the downtown area, and that the City might explore ways to limit large truck traffic in the downtown.**

7) Adjournment:

- a) Motion to adjourn Rex Gerlinger**
- b) Second Bill Tinley**
- c) Meeting adjourned by Chair Gentry at 2:55PM.**