



LAWRENCEVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

March 25, 2013 / 7:00 PM

City Hall - GwMA Conference Room on 3rd Floor

70 South Clayton Street

MINUTES

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER** – Mike Reedy, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:02pm
- 2.0 **QUORUM** - Mike Reedy, Chairman, recognized a quorum citing that Meg Earhart would not be in attendance.
- 3.0 **MINUTES** – The board reviewed the February 25 Meeting Minutes. Parker Gann motioned to approve the minutes. David Still seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- 4.0 **AGENDA** - Mike Reedy added one item to the agenda, 6.0 c. – Lawrenceville Farmers Market – Ben Davis. With that addition, D.H. Malcolm motioned to approve the agenda. Parker Gann seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- 5.0 **TREASURY REPORT** – Danny Gravitt, Treasurer, provided an updated accounting to the board. February's final balance was \$30,875.87. MPT sent an invoice to Mike Reedy in the amount of \$15 for census form completion. David Still motioned to approve the treasury update and pay MPT the \$15. Penny Cogdill seconded that motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- 6.0 **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Train Depot Update – Linda Nash attended the meeting to publicly thank the board for moving ahead on the approval of this project. She stated that the project for the floor was on-task to be completed in time for Easter Sunday opening. The businesses in the depot purchased the paint for the walls; City provided labor to paint the walls; Mike Reedy would be by to inspect the flooring then present Albright's invoice for payment at the next meeting.
 - b. Historic National Register Update & Presentation – Chip Wright, Consultant, shared that the Historic Register application had been complete and already sent to D.C. for review and input from them. He supplied the board with a copy of the proposal he sent to them. Lisa to contact Connie Tabor of Toccoa Falls to inquire about presenting to the DDA what Toccoa did to build a façade grant improvement program around their historic registry.

- c. Lawrenceville Farmers Market – Ben Davis, Chairman of the Board for LFM, introduced himself and shared that the Farmers Market would be held at 153 Crogan Street again this year from June 1 – Sept. 7, 2013, 8am-12pm. Mike Reedy said he would speak with Josh Ferguson about signage on the buildings to advertise the Market. David Still was asked to speak with property owners regarding signage support of the Market within the downtown business district.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

- a. Economic Development Strategy Study – Lisa Sherman, Executive Director, suggested that this item be tabled to the April 22 meeting. Penny Cogdill motioned to table. Parker Gann seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- b. Revolving Loan Fund Details Update – Lisa Sherman, Executive Director, highlighted that both the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Cities Foundation (GCF) have this program in place. Other cities have complimentary funding mechanisms to support these. Parker Gann motioned to have David Gussio review Rome's version of this program as well as the Façade Grant Improvement program, and have Lisa work with him to draft a Lawrenceville version for the DDA to review. David Still seconded that motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- c. Downtown Management Conference and Historic Preservation Conference – Mike Reedy, Chairman and Lisa Sherman, Executive Director, presented information on this upcoming conference. D. H. motioned to have DDA pay registration plus \$250 in reasonable expenses for any board member interested in attending this conference. Parker Gann seconded that motion. The motion carried 4-1. Danny Gravitt opposed.
- d. City Update – Judy Jordan Johnson, Mayor, provided updates on a few city projects.
 - i. The City is 1.5 weeks behind on the underground utilities for the lawn due to weather delays; Looking at a May 2014 completion date for the lawn.
 - ii. The Heritage Trail second phase easement was acquired except for the apartments along Paper Mill Trail.
 - iii. The City is looking at a specific piece of property for the relocation of utilities.
 - iv. Benefield High School has been approved to go into the old Bridgestone Building and will pull from the Berkmar/Central clusters, forming a new high school for Lawrenceville.
 - v. A request has been brought forth to Council to consider designating Lawrenceville a "Tree City".
 - vi. Midblock Crossing on East Crogan will be completed soon.
 - vii. The mayor also opened discussion on the possibility of creating a public art program; David Still and Mike Reedy also recommended the exploration of a walkability plan.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Project List/Meeting - David Still recommended that the DDA set a meeting to prepare a list of project recommendations to City Council per the Mayor's direction from the January board meeting. Mike Reedy recommended that the meeting be held in April and that it be a special call meeting dedicated solely to updating the DDA's project list. David Still suggested that parking projects may take priority for SPLOST recommendations. Steve North, Asst. City Manager, present in the audience recommended that if there would be projects proposed that might qualify for SPLOST, these should be identified in early April due to project list deadlines. David Still motioned to have a separate special call meeting to develop a priority list to present to the Council. D.H. Malcolm seconded that motion. The motion carried 5-0. The special call meeting was set for Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 6:00pm in the GwMA conference room on the 3rd floor of City Hall.
- b. Aurora Storage – D.H. Malcolm addressed Aurora's needs for a storage space due to the fire. Drowsy Chaperone is also playing at the Aurora Theatre through the second week of April.
- c. Foundation Wall – Parker Gann informed the DDA that the City was putting in a new walk around his property and hit a foundational wall in the process. The City is rebuilding this wall and Parker was seeking recommendations for any type of decorative ideas we may want to include to brand the city at that location. No recommendations were offered.
- d. Executive Session – David Still motioned that the DDA move into executive session to discuss matters of real estate. Parker Gann seconded that motion. Motion carried 5-0.

9.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. The DDA board discussed several matters of real estate in executive session.
- b. D.H. Malcolm motioned to adjourn from executive session into the regular meeting. Parker Gann seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. No future agenda items were identified beyond those outlined in action items under the above discussion points.

11.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS

- a. No citizen comments were made.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

- a. Parker Gann motioned to adjourn the general meeting. Penny Cogdill seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.