

**Lawrenceville Downtown Development Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2008**

DDA MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Reedy (Chair), Marie Beiser (Vice Chair), Danny Gravitt (Treasurer), Larry Still, Mary Kay Jordan, John Heard

OTHERS PRESENT: Jay Markwalter (DDA Staff), David Gussio (WTPMW), Dr. Judy Johnson (City Council), Private Citizens and Property Owners.

The Board members of the Lawrenceville Downtown Development Authority met on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 pm at Old City Hall in Lawrenceville, GA. Jay Markwalter, DDA Staff, kept the minutes of the meeting.

1.0 – Call to Order – Mike Reedy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2.0 – Quorum – It was determined that a quorum was present.

3.0 – Minutes – Mary Kay Jordan made a motion to approve the March 24 minutes, which was seconded by Larry Still. The motion passed unanimously.

4.0 – Agenda Approval – Following the approval of the minutes, the agenda was approved with a motion from Danny Gravitt, which was seconded by Marie Beiser. The motion passed unanimously.

5.0 – OLD BUSINESS

5.1 – Trolley Service Update

Jerry Moore gave a trolley operations update including “Passenger Counts”, customer feedback, and promotional efforts. He has been unable to proceed with further advertising campaign planning / fundraising with Pam Ledbetter of Accent South Media. John Heard mentioned that he would try to help communicate with some people at the county about better accessibility to the Justice Center.

Mike Reedy called on John Heard to make a special presentation regarding an attempt to secure some grant assistance from the state for the trolley operation to help with transportation and economic development. Representative Heard presented a large display check in the amount of \$40,000 from the Department of Community Affairs to the City of Lawrenceville. Mr. Heard said that \$35,000 is to be allocated for the trolley operations and the remaining \$5,000 is to be used to assist with renovations of the Welcome Center downstairs bathroom for ADA accessibility. Chairman Reedy said that the DDA is to be reimbursed by the city for the funds already given to the trolley service. The state funds from the DCA will be available on July 1st. Chairman Reedy suggested to Jerry Moore that the DDA Board should be given a trolley service update each month.

Mary Kay Jordan made a motion to expend the trolley trial period contract, after May 30th, until August 31st with the continuation of monthly operations reports. John Heard seconded the motion followed by full board approval.

5.2 – Walking Trail Update

Continuing the discussion regarding the historic overlay area within the downtown overlay, Chairman Mike Reedy gave an overview to the Board and public about the ongoing issues with the historical overlay architectural standards. Chairman Reedy opened the floor for further discussion on districts, preservation, and zoning and asked the Board to share any research or photographs they had collected. Chairman Reedy feels that the DDA Board should continue the stance that the boundary lines should be erased to eliminate the historical zone. He continued with the suggestion that the DDA and City should designate historic points of interest and put together a visitor walking tour of the properties. Chairman

Reedy also added that one idea could be to work through the office of Planning & Zoning to “red flag” certain properties or structures of historical value to allow the DDA time to contact a property owner making permit requests for construction or alterations to the existing structure(s). Following Board and public discussion regarding the zoning, it was concluded that the Board would not take any action regarding the matter and that the topic would not be included on next month’s agenda.

6.3 – Update Walking Trail Name Dedication Discussion

Mike Reedy stated that he had received a letter from Don Segars offering the suggestion that the Walking Trail be named in honor of Reverend William C. Corley. Chairman Reedy opened the floor for Board and public input for the present proposed name and other suggestions to be presented to City Council. Larry Still suggested that the trail should not be named for one individual and could have a name such as “Heritage” or “Memorial” Trail. Other names mentioned by the Board and public were “Rhodes Jordan” Trail and “Bobby Sikes” as well as “Bartow Jenkins”. Mary Kay Jordan made a motion that the trail be named the “Heritage Trail” with markers honoring numerous individuals along the path or route of the trail system. Marie Beiser seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. After further discussion, Mary Kay Jordan amended the motion to include the name recommendation process. *The DDA, or citizen(s) through presentation to the DDA, would make dedication proposals or recommendations to the City to honor and include the individual significant to Lawrenceville as part of the trail.* This would apply to both the initial phase or markers and the periodic additions of honorees in the future. Marie Beiser seconded the amended motion and the action passed with full board support.

6.4 – Directional (Wayfinding) Signage

The agenda item regarding directional and other signage was tabled with a motion from Mary Kay Jordan and a second by Marie Beiser. The motion passed unanimously. There was no further discussion.

7.0 – NEW BUSINESS

7.1 – Discussion of Future Agenda Items

It was noted that Agenda Item 6.4 regarding Signage would be re-visited as well as the trolley operations. Chairman Reedy would like for the DDA to host Paul Kreager with the UGA Fanning Institute and Development Authority Training program at the University of Georgia for one of the upcoming meetings to provide insight for possible income streams utilized by DDAs. We will also continue to follow the Welcome Center renovation project.

8.0 - Citizen Comments

Jay Markwalter thanked Dr. Judy Johnson, David Still, Marie Beiser, and Linda Campbell for their help with the recent Georgia Bus Tour event on April 16th, and asked that each Board member, and everyone attending the meeting, please take home one of the bags that were provided to the Bus Tour participants. The bags each contained Lawrenceville themed travel pillows and fleece blankets.

9.0 – Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm with a motion from Kathy Monroe and a second from Danny Gravitt. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Markwalter.