

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2012

The regular meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Lomis at 9:00 am.

**Members Present:** Craig Root, Gary Straight, Charlie Smith, Cheri Richter, John Morrissey, Jim Lomis, and Terry Landreth

**Members not Present:** N/A

**Guest in attendance:** Steve Crowell; City Manager, June Fischer; Economic Development Committee Chair, David Keating; Joint Development Authority (JDA) Director, Jim Gant; St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway Committee Chair, Peggy Jolley; GA Power Facilitator

**Staff:** Artie Jones, III; Director, Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the March 5, 2012 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Smith and a second by Straight. All were in favor of the motion.

**Treasurers Report:** Smith presented the city financial report and the DDA statements. Smith made a motion to approve the financials and the motion was second by Straight. All were in favor.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Richter asked to add War of 1812 and Morrissey added update on Heart and Soul Tour. Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Smith and second by Straight. All were in favor.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Mill Site:** Keating briefed the board on the current status of the mill site. Keating reported the five potential uses for the property which are: public (park), residential, commercial, industrial or mixed use (a combination of the prior four). Keating's opinion is that the first option is not feasible due to costs and the abundance of available space. His opinion on the residential option was that it would be challenging with the current market. A commercial use with retail or office space and possibly a hotel could utilize an amount of the space but he felt that the best use would be the industrial since the property has rail access, heavy duty power supply, gas lines, public water and sewer and deep water wells. He felt this would also be a better fit due to the property being close to the channel with 48 foot depth and no bridges impeding on passing ships.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Chocolate for Charities:** Fischer presented and invoice to the board for printing costs from this event that totaled \$87.50 and asked the board for support in covering this expense. She reported that last year's event raised over \$3500 that was dispersed to local charities. After brief

discussion motion to pay the invoice was made by Richter and second by Straight. All were in favor.

**War of 1812:** Richter reported that Alex Kearns is working hard on the St. Marys Peace Garden which will be the ending of the Canadian Trail. A Canadian flag will be flown at the garden next to the flag pole with the US flag. The committee needs \$200 to install the flag pole for the Canadian flag before the launching of the garden during the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Canadian dignitaries will be in attendance for the big event. After discussion the board recommended that Richter research the funds that were collected by the former War of 1812 group. These funds are in an account and could possibly be used toward the flag pole purchase/installation. Richter will follow up at a later time.

**Heart & Soul Tour:** AJ reported that the tour is on schedule with the visitors set to arrive approximately 2:15 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The first stop will be Theatre by the Trax for a brief show. Then the guests will board a boat at the Meeting Street boat ramp for a waterway tour of the SMIG property and the Mill property and end at the waterfront park. The group will walk from the park to the visitor's center where they will board the bus to head out of town. All board members were urged to attend if possible.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am and the DDA planning session begun at 10:30 am after a brief break.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary  
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant