

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2012

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

**Members Present:** Terry Landreth, Jim Lomis, Gary Straight, and Charlie Smith

**Members not Present:** Cheri Richter, Craig Root, and John Morrissey

**Guest in attendance:** Angela Wigger; Director of Tourism, and Simon Scott; Development Authority of St. Marys Chairman

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

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the July 2, 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:** There were no additions to the agenda.

**Presentation:** Mr. Davis was not present and this item was postponed.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Team Camden:** AJ reported that the group is still meeting monthly. The group will be making a presentation on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to a group of site surveyors for foreign investors.

**Film Alliance:** Angela reported that the production called Identity Theft starring Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy was filmed two weeks ago. LoveTown, USA will air on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm on the OWN network. Angela also pointed out the articles in the most recent St. Marys magazine highlighting the St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway Property and the former Durango mill site.

**Tourism:** Angela reported on the upcoming events in St. Marys which include: Starry Nights on August 18<sup>th</sup> and a movie in the park on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG):** AJ reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) deadline for respondents is August 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. AJ also presented the brochure that the Design Committee created to advertise the property. These brochures were handed out at the recent conference AJ attended in Miami for hotel developers. AJ spoke to a person at the conference who creates feasibility studies and will be talking in further detail with the person on the possibility of creating one for St. Marys. Lomis reported that the dock at the property was damaged during the recent storm. During repair work, the dock will be moved to a more feasible

location at the end of the dock to aid in its usability during low tides. The insurance fees from the damage will cover the relocation costs. Meeting date and time has been changed for the SMIG committee. Future meetings have now been set for the first Monday of each month beginning with the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Economic Development Article:** Lomis presented the article entitled “An Objective Approach to Economic Development” making note of the seven elements of capacity for business development and community development and the four stages of civic condition. Lomis also discussed a group of local business owners and developers who have formed a group and meet in concern of the current economic climate of the county.

**DDA Property Values:** Lomis presented the property value sheets and last appraisals completed for the properties owned by the DDA.

**September Meeting Date:** Due to the Labor Day holiday, the September meeting was reschedule for Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Sea Air & Space (SAS) Contacts Follow-up:** AJ reported that after the SAS expo he has made contact with 52 of the people he met. At the current time he has only received responses back from approximately six individuals. Neither of those expressed interest in starting a business in St. Marys, but just expressed thanks for contacting them.

**Façade Grant Application:** AJ presented the application received from J’s Restaurant and British Pub for an electric sign to be mounted between the existing pillars at the front of the building. Question was asked if the façade grant should be used for advertising and if this should be addressed on the application for future submitters to the Façade Grant program. The board also requested that the applicant get comparative bids from local sign companies.

**Businesses and Updates:** AJ reported that the former KFC building is no longer under contract. AJ met with the owners of the former bowling alley recently in discussion of their plans for the property. In the near future they plan to open the building in phases beginning with the right side containing video games, pool tables, etc. and eventually opening the left side with an indoor play area and party store. AJ also reported that a portion of the former St. Marys Antique mall will be opening by its new owner Al Chapman. He will be selling antiques and has plans for the larger area in the near future.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am with a motion by Smith and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary  
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant