

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes for December 10, 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, Terry Landreth, and Jim Lomis

Members not Present: Charlie Smith, Cheri Richter, and John Morrissey

Guest in attendance: Roger Weaver; City Planning Director, Angela Wigger; Tourism Director, and Barbara Ryan, Convention and Visitors Bureau Board

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

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

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

Additions to the Agenda: There were no additions to the agenda.

Presentation: Joint Land Use Study (JLUS): Weaver discussed the study being conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD) and Camden County to ensure that the communities around the base are viable, to offer future planning strategies for the community and the naval base, and to ensure that there are no conflicts between the two entities. JLUS is a planning study that says the community supporting the navy has certain advantages and the means to solve any disadvantages. On December 4th consultant proposals were received. Weaver will be heading the technical review committee and will participate on policy discussions once they begin.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

St. Marys Magazine Ad: The board discussed the advertisement that it receives in this bi annual publication which is a full page ad, (\$1900 value), for the cost of \$450. Motion to approve the ad for the January issue was made by Root and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Team Camden: AJ reported that the group did not meet last month. AJ will poll the team about an upcoming meeting in order to obtain the information for a progress report on Team Camden for the DDA Board.

Tourism: Angela reported on the following items: the St. Marys Christmas “Tour our Town” & “Tour of Homes” was a success. St. Marys Badge of Benevolence will host a play on December 15th to raise funds for their program. Theatre by the Trax will be having their Christmas play December 14-16 and The Live Nativity is December 18th. On December 15th Santa will be on the grounds of Orange Hall for free picture taking opportunities.

St. Marys Intra-coastal Gateway (SMIG): AJ reported that there was not a meeting scheduled for December. After the last SMIG meeting AJ was directed to discuss next steps with the responders to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). AJ met recently with members of the Forum Group and reviewed steps toward a best use/feasibility study. This study will be conducted after the recent passing vote of the City Council to allow AJ to proceed with this type study. It is planned for the study to be completed in January. The study will be presented to the SMIG committee in February or March for recommendations.

Alternate Financial Options: AJ has researched alternate options for the DDA funds and will have more information at the next board meeting.

Renaissance Act: This item will be in the legislature in January for vote and possible adoption for downtown areas. The Georgia Downtown Renaissance Act embodies a unique public-private partnership that includes three related state tax incentives. Together the incentives will shape downtowns. Root motioned that the DDA board should create a letter to area representatives and request their support on this act. Motion was second by Landreth. All were in favor.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Design Guidelines: AJ presented the addendum that was created to coincide with the Design Guidelines booklet that was created a year ago. The addendum was created to address signage and will aid the DDA when making decisions on façade grant applications. It was requested that the image of the digital sign be removed from the document and motion to approve the addendum was made by Root and second by Straight. All were in favor.

Businesses and Updates: AJ presented a plat of the property owned by the DDA on Norris Street which needs to grant an easement to the land owner due to the property being landlocked. AJ reported that the Exit 1 gas station has begun select demolition and will be upgrading the inside of the building and is looking to open for business in February.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant