

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2013

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

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

Members not Present: Charlie Smith

Guest in attendance:

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

Minutes: The board reviewed the January 14, 2013 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Root and a second by Landreth. All were in favor of the motion.

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

Additions to the Agenda: Renée added SCORE and Board Expirations to the agenda. Agenda was adopted with a motion by Morrissey and second by Straight. All were in favor.

SCORE Seminar: Renée reported that the seminar titled: “Strategies to Improve Visibility Online and Connect with the Community” will be held on February 27th at 1 pm.

Board Term Expirations: Renée reported that Root and Landreth’s terms will expire on March 28th. If the members are interested in remaining on the board they will need to submit a letter requesting that to the City Clerk’s office.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Team Camden: AJ reported that the group will meet on Tuesday, February 19th at the Kingsland Welcome Center at 1 pm. A representative from the Savannah Trade Center will be making a presentation at an undetermined date. Boards and council members will be invited. The representative will talk about opportunities that they have available.

Tourism: Board members discussed the success of the Mardi Gras festival that was held on February 9th.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): AJ reported that the consultant that will be conducting the feasibility/best use study will be at the meeting on today, February 11th at 5 pm. The consultant will introduce himself and outline his plans for completing his task.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Businesses and Updates: AJ reported on the Atlanta Fly In. One of the key topics during the trip was the funding for the local technical college. This item is still currently in the Governor's budget for this year. AJ reported that the St. Marys Development Authority will be having a special called meeting on February 20th at 5 pm to discuss SPLOST VII and their efforts to support this item. Root motioned that the DDA endorse SPLOST VII as well and the motion was second by Straight. All were in favor. AJ reported that the Camden Chamber of Commerce has a new president who will begin working in the position on March 1st. AJ reported that in the 2012-2013 Work Plan it was requested that he visit similar cities and look at their best practices. AJ will be visiting Warner Robins on Thursday, February 21st and Valdosta on Friday, February 22nd. AJ reported that the City will be conducting its Goals and Objectives meetings beginning March 5th at 5 pm. AJ reported that he has recently met with a businessman that has located to St. Marys who is looking to locate his shrimp boat here and open a restaurant. AJ will continue to work with him as well as the 1800-WEINSURE representative. AJ reported that the French Quarter has been purchased and will eventually reopen as a retail business. The Pilot gas station on Exit 1 continues construction and will open end of March. Morrissey noted the repairs at Orange Hall and stated that at the last council meeting approximately \$150,000 additional dollars were added to repair the back and front stairs. Approximately \$375,000 total has been used to renovate the building and the funds will be taken from SPLOST VI to cover the work. AJ reported that he will be meeting with a developer who has proposed an adaptive reuse for the Orange Hall building. AJ will conduct a tour with the developer in the near future and report back on the findings. The Renaissance Act will be voted on within the next two weeks. AJ learned that Mr. Spencer is in support of the Act. AJ reported that FY 2014 budget information is due to the city by March 3rd. Lomis appointed Smith, Landreth and himself to the budget subcommittee for the DDA. AJ will set a date and time for the committee to meet.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant