

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

Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2013

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

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

Members not Present: John Morrissey

Guest in attendance: Angela Wigger; Tourism Director

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

Minutes: The board reviewed the December 10, 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 Root. All were in favor.

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

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Future Meeting Dates: After brief discussion to accommodate board member schedules, the board agreed to meet beginning February 2013 on the 2nd Monday of each month at 8:30 am. This will be the meeting time until June 2013 and the board will decide at that time if they would like to revise the schedule back to its present meeting date and time. Motion to change the meeting date and time for a 6 month period was made by Richter and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Team Camden: AJ reported that the group was meeting on today at 2 pm.

Tourism: Angela reported on the following items: Mardi Gras will be held on Saturday, February 9th. Theatre by the Trax will be presenting the play “Color Blind” February 22-24, 2013. Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG) will be February 26-March 3rd.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): AJ reported that the Tourism Product Development grant was not awarded to St. Marys for this project so the feasibility/best use study is moving forward. AJ and the City Planning Director will be traveling to Miami to meet with a consultant to address any issues that may come up during the development stage of the study. AJ also reported that he met recently with a member from the Coastal Regional Commission to discuss an Economic Development grant that may be used if offsite parking is needed for the SMIG project.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Businesses and Updates: AJ reported that the Renaissance Act will hopefully be adopted at the upcoming legislative session. At a recent Main Street meeting, a Department of Community

Affairs (DCA) representative discussed this program and its importance to downtowns. Business and/or residences in the downtown district will be able to take advantage of the tax credits and would be able to claim them as early as FY 2015. The Historic Tax Credit could also be used in conjunction to this tax credit. AJ reported on the Prescribed Burn Notice that was received from the naval base Captain recently that stated that during January and February the base would be conducting these burns in conjunction with the forestry service to control underbrush/vegetation growth on the base. These events will take place weather permitting. AJ reported that the Atlanta Fly-In is scheduled February 5-7, 2013 and the three topics on the agenda are the spaceport, the military and ideal installation ready for mission growth, and the Altamaha Technical College. Side topics to be discussed are the Exit 1 and 3 projects and the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). AJ reported that the bond issues with Cumberland Harbor have been worked out and infrastructure completion date is no later than December 31, 2014. AJ reported that the Exit 1 gas station is scheduled to be open March 9th.

AJ will provide for the DDA the top 5 prospects being worked with within the DDA district at the February meeting. Root asked AJ about the alternate options for DDA funds. AJ reported that with the recent changes in DCA staffing, he has not been able to get any precise options. It was suggested that AJ find out if the DDA would be able to utilize the same type of investment programs the city uses. AJ will research that information.

AJ reported that the JLUS study is moving forward. The consultant to complete the JLUS study has not been shared with the Planning Director as of last week. The DDA director is unaware if a consultant has been engaged to complete the JLUS study. Roger Weaver, the City contact for the JLUS study would be the person to contact about the JLUS study.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am with a motion by Straight and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant