

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2012

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

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

**Members not Present:** Gary Straight

**Guest in attendance:** Angela Wigger; St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Kenyatta Compton, and Christine Daniel; Camden County Chamber of Commerce

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

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the December 5, 2011 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Smith and a second by Richter. All were in favor of the motion.

**Treasurers Report:** Smith presented the city financial report and the DDA statements. AJ noted that he spoke with the city auditor regarding the property values that are listed on the DDA financial statements and the auditor stated that there are two options. First is to wait until the property is sold and at that time readjust the figures or the DDA can have the property re-appraised and give the appraisals to the county office to have the figures adjusted there. Root asked to AJ to get the current appraisals from the county and use those figures if less. Smith made a motion to approve the financials and the motion was second by Morrissey. All were in favor.

**Additions to the Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda and it was adopted as written.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Promotions Committee: Spirit of 1812:** Richter mentioned that the committee is moving forward with preparations for the Mardi Gras event. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. **Marketing St. Marys (Cumberland Harbour/MOAA):** Richter mentioned that she and AJ met with the current owners of Cumberland Harbour. The owners were in agreement with helping with marketing and promoting St. Marys. They are currently working on permit and bond issues and once complete they will be ready to begin advertising; approximately six months. **Spring Festival:** Richter introduced Kenyatta Compton, organizer of the past three gospel concerts in downtown St. Marys. The events have been a success and this year's event will take place on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Richter asked the board if they would be willing to sponsor this event. Angela agreed to reserve the park for the event and Root agreed to provide a billboard.

**Economic Development Committee: Social Media Seminar February 9<sup>th</sup>:** AJ mentioned the upcoming seminar that SCORE, the Chamber and the Small Business Development Center will

partner to sponsor on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The groups will work on hosting a seminar every two months. The next seminar will be a follow up on the social media session and will be a round table panel discussion.

**Design Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Film Alliance:** Nothing to report.

**CVB Donation for July 4<sup>th</sup> & Tourism:** Angela mentioned that the Drifters will be at the Theatre by the Trax in February and the event is already sold out. Mardi Gras is February 18<sup>th</sup> and Bikeriders Across Georgia will be on February 20-24. Angela mentioned the current status of financial collections for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. Currently only \$2450 balance is needed. Angela also mentioned that current news was that the only other hopefully for LoveTown USA had been dropped from the list. It has not been made official yet on if Kingsland has been chosen.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG) & SMIG Representative:** Morrissey reported that the demolition will begin today. This process should be complete by the end of the month. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am. Lomis mentioned that he had planned to make an announcement at this DDA board meeting that he would be stepping down as the appointee from this board for the SMIG committee, but due to his recent job change he will be able to stay on as the DDA member and attend meetings regularly.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**DDA Golf Cart:** AJ mentioned that golf cart is currently down due to a dead motor. He presented the board with the cost of repair. He stated that if the golf cart is repaired, he will request that it be housed behind the former tourism building until the DDA building can be conformed to house the cart to keep it from being exposed to the weather. The board requested that AJ get cost of repairing the seats and modifying the cart to meet the current guidelines that were just passed.

**Camden County Economic Development Officers (EDO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** AJ presented the document that was created to unify the voice of the local EDOs on future projects. After review motion to approve the document was made by Richter and second by Root. All were in favor. AJ mentioned that the next summit meeting is on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 8 am at the college.

**Georgia Cities Foundation Week – April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>:** AJ mentioned this upcoming event and that he will be working with other city offices on events for that week. Will also try to incorporate the spring event discussed earlier into the Georgia Cities Week events.

**Planning Session Date:** AJ asked the board to check their calendars and he will discuss with Peggy Jolley her availability to facilitate this year's planning session. May possibly have the session in lieu of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting.

**Marketing/Advertising:** AJ mentioned that the advertisement has been submitted for the upcoming St. Marys magazine. This editions focus was on the mill site and included a picture and pertinent information about the site.

**Businesses and Updates:** AJ mentioned that the Wee Pub will be opening in the Kings Bay Village shopping center. It was also noted that the United Way may be moving into the former Tribune & Georgian location. Southeast Boat Repair has also opened at 813 Osborne Road. The Blue Barn is in midtown and is a new consignment shop. There will be a new pool company opening on Charlie Smith Senior Highway at the former carpet store location.

AJ mentioned his recent letter to the base Captain requesting that the Point Peter gate be reopened. The City Manager as well as other local officials have also sent letters requesting this. AJ read the Captains response stating that they are currently looking at options of possibly reopening the gate.

AJ mentioned that an intern from the local college will be working in the office in a few days to complete hours needed for his degree.

It was mentioned that the bait shop in the waterfront park has been converted to a snack shop. The board asked AJ for an update on the kiosk at the next meeting.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary  
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant