

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2012

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

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

Members not Present: Charlie Smith and Craig Root

Guest in attendance: Christine Daniel; Camden County Chamber of Commerce Director, Simon Scott; IDA Chair

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

Minutes: The board reviewed the October 1, 2012 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Richter and a second by Straight. All were in favor of the motion.

Treasurers Report: Lomis presented the city financial report and the DDA statements. Question was asked if there was a better option than the certificate of deposit the DDA currently has. AJ will research other deposit options and report to the board in December. 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 and it was adopted with a motion by Landreth and second by Morrissey. All were in favor.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Team Camden: AJ reported that there is not much activity collectively but each group continues to work diligently on their many projects. AJ reported that business has picked up and he has been showing more sites for possible locations. A local realtor will be meeting with a defense contractor that may possibly locate his business in St. Marys. The board asked AJ for Team Camden's direction and for AJ to present feedback from the group at the December DDA meeting. The board asked that this report/feedback include what's working and what's not for Team Camden, their accomplishments and future plans. Motion to have AJ request this information from Team Camden was made by Morrissey and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Tourism: Renée reported on the following items in Angela's absence: Wounded Warrior Day was held on November 3rd and was a success. November 13th is the Downtown Merchants Open House, November 27th is the White Lighting, December 1st is Christmas in the Park, and December 8th is the St. Marys Christmas "Tour our Town" & "Tour of Homes". The Live Nativity is December 18th.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Morrissey reported that there were four proposals received for the RFQ that was sent out in June. None of the proposals met the financial requirements that were requested. The SMIG committee will apply for grants that will aid in a feasibility/best use study if the request is approved at the City Council meeting on November 5th.

How Do We Compete: Lomis presented the graphs of Economic Indicators that will now be tracked by the DDA to include hotel/motel tax, number of business licenses, building permits, and sales tax. Lomis also presented and reviewed information that was presented by the City Manager at a recent Rotary meeting.

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. Straight requested that this item be tabled for review and discussed and/or approved at the December board meeting.

Façade Grant-Miss Julie's House: AJ presented the revised application received for Miss Julie's House. The new application is for work outside of the daycare to include fencing and a pathway. The new estimate totaled \$1219 and the grant would cover one half for a total of \$609. Motion to approve the façade grant was made by Morrissey and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

Businesses and Updates: AJ reported that the Exit 1 former Cisco station was purchased and will be affiliated with the Flying J Pilot Truck stops. Signage will be changed shortly and the station is projected to open shortly after the first of the year.

The board asked AJ to give an update on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) at the December board meeting.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am with a motion by Landreth and second by Straight. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary

Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant