

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2012

The regular meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Lomis at 8:30 am.

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

Members not Present: Gary Straight

Guest in attendance: Roger Weaver; Planning Director, David Keating; Joint Development Authority (JDA) Director, Diane Brown; Business Owner, Celenda Perry

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

Minutes: The board reviewed the September 10, 2012 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Root and a second by Smith. 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 Landreth. All were in favor.

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

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Façade Grant-Miss Julie's House: AJ presented the application received for Miss Julie's House. The application is for work outside of the daycare to include fencing, a pathway, landscaping and irrigation. The board heard from Ms. Brown in reference to the project that is to be completed. After discussion the board agreed that portions of the application would fall under the grant program and requested that an invoice with only the approved work for the program be included. The board also recommended providing Ms. Brown with a Design Guidelines booklet to review for the fence installation. This application will be addressed at next month's meeting.

Discussion of Marshwalk: Weaver reported on the concept of completing a marshwalk that came about from the St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG) Project. The proposed marshwalk will run from the SMIG property possibly through the former mill site on to the North River Causeway. Georgia Department of Transportation completed a walkability study in 2010 and findings from this study will aid in grant applications and completing this project. The board requested milestones for possible grants/funding for this project. AJ will get dates and discuss next steps with Weaver and report back to the board.

Team Camden: AJ reported that this group continues to meet. They are currently discussing the Exit 3 project. AJ also noted that the developer for the Exit 3 amusement facility also submitted a proposal to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the SMIG project. Keating noted that although the group meeting has been wonderful for fostering communication and trust, Team Camden is not addressing the structure of resourcing in the community. He noted that he staff does not have the authority to make changes and decisions that are necessary to move issues

forward. Leadership from all boards and local governments is needed to take the group to the next level.

Film Alliance: No report was given.

Tourism: Renée reported on the following items in Angela's absence: Angela has three groups of agents/writers she will be visiting with in October. She also requested a proclamation in honor of Cumberland Island National Seashore's 40th Anniversary. It will be read at the October 1st Council Meeting and Fred Boyles will receive it. Upcoming events include: 10/6- Rock Shrimp Festival, 10/13- St. Marys RR Days & Build a Scarecrow + plus Breast Cancer Awareness Zumbathon (at Fiesta Fitness) & Luncheon (planned by the hospital), 10/16- Scarecrow Stroll, 10/26 – Haunted History Tour, 11/3 – **Wounded Warrior Day** (10am walk from Oak Grove to the Waterfront Park followed by a program with music & speakers) – Board members are invited to attend, if available. 11/13 – Downtown Merchants Open House, 11/27 – White Lighting, 12/1 – Christmas in the Park, 12/8 – St. Marys Christmas “Tour our Town” & “Tour of Homes” - Daytime merchants open house & evening Tour of homes.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Lomis reported that there were four proposals received for the RFQ that was sent out in June. Two of the proposals were from repeat submitters. Requests for financial information have been sent out to all four submitters and interviews will be conducted on October 22, 2012. Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be released approximately October 29-November 1 with a possible due date of December 15th. The SMIG committee will have its monthly meeting on October 22nd after interviews are completed.

How Do We Compete: Lomis presented comparative figures of fees for St. Marys and Kingsland. Also presented were 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. The board also requested that Gross Sales per month be added.

Tribune & Georgian Article: Morrissey referenced the opinion article by Jill Helton, “Building a Brighter Future”, that was in the September 7th edition of the Tribune & Georgian. Several board members felt that the article had valid points. The board discussed the possibility of joint meetings with the DDA and Development Authority (IDA). Morrissey proposed that an outline be put together of the benefits and issues or combining the two groups. AJ noted that the next IDA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3rd at 5 pm and invited the DDA board members to attend.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Businesses and Updates: AJ reported that the bag plant building in St. Marys will be up for auction October 23-26th.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am with a motion by Landreth and second by Morrissey. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant