

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2012

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

Members Present: Terry Landreth, John Morrissey, Jim Lomis, Gary Straight, and Charlie Smith

Members not Present: Cheri Richter, Craig Root

Guest in attendance: Chris Daniel; Executive Director of Camden County Chamber of Commerce, and Simon Scott; Development Authority of St. Marys Chairman

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

Minutes: The board reviewed the June 4, 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 Straight. All were in favor.

Additions to the Agenda: Morrissey added Team Camden, Georgia Department of Labor, Independence Day Parade and Peace Garden to the agenda. Motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Smith and second by Morrissey. All were in favor.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Film Alliance: Renée reported that an email press release was recently received regarding Universal Pictures filming in St. Marys on July 9th and 10th. The production is called Identity Theft and stars two well-known actors, Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy. Other portions of the movie have been filmed in various parts of Georgia.

Tourism: Renée reported on the upcoming events in St. Marys which include: the July 4th celebration, the Peace Garden ceremony on July 4th at 1 pm. There will also be a Starry Nights on July 14th.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Morrissey reported that there have been several meetings recently regarding the property. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was mailed on June 13th to over 72 developers. AJ mentioned the conference that he will be attending late July where he will be handing out RFQ packages to interested hotel developers to increase that number. The deadline for respondents is August 29th at 2 pm.

DDA Property Values: the board reviewed the Board of Tax Assessors forms on the three properties owned by the DDA. After brief discussion it was requested to have these forms at the

August board meeting along with copies of the last appraisals completed on each property. Lomis also requested a map of downtown with the areas highlighted that will be discussed.

Team Camden: Morrissey asked if this item could be placed continually on future agendas. AJ will make reports in the future to keep the board aware of this group's discussions. AJ reported that the group will meet on July 10th at the depot building in Kingsland. The current assignment for the group is to write a couple of sentences of their mission and types of numbers tracked in each Economic Development partner's office.

Georgia Department of Labor: Morrissey announced that the facility is complete and open as of today and congratulated AJ on facilitating the retention of this business.

July 4th Parade: Morrissey reminded everyone about the parade at 10 am on the 4th. Council members will ride in the parade with the City Manager and the Senior Center Prom King and Queen.

Peace Garden: Morrissey reminded everyone about the Peace Garden dedication at 1 pm on the 4th and on hand will be Canadian representatives and the head of the Bi-National Peace Garden.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Businesses and Updates: AJ reported that he has been working with several developers on various properties in St. Marys. It was also reported that the old KFC building is currently under contract. Wee Pub is also open in St. Marys. They will be having a grand opening later this month.

Morrissey asked if there was anything that the DDA should do on an Economic Development aspect as it pertains to the rookery on the mill property or if that was something that should be left for tourism or if the board should make some sort of recommendation.

Chris reported that the Chamber had its board retreat and is in the process of reorganizing. During its recent Gavel to Gavel dinner, Alicia Webb was named Chair of the board and Charlie Smith was named Vice-Chair.

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

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant