



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

July 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ST. MARYS INTRACOASTAL GATEWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:31 PM by Mr. Gant
- II. ROLL CALL *Mr. Jim Gant; Ms. Kay Westberry; Mrs. Teddie Lockhart; Mrs. Mary Neff; Mr. Jim Lomis; Mr. Roger A. Weaver; Mr. Steve Crowell; Mr. A. Jones, III (arrived late); Mr. & Mrs. Bob Nutter* QUORUM:
YES XX NO
- III. Absent: *Mr. Phil Jones; Mr. John Morrissey; Mr. Craig Root; Mr. Sidney Howell; Mr. David Keating (non-voting)*
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Review and approval of minutes of June 21, 2012 - Motion by Ms. Kay Westberry; Second by Mrs. Teddie Lockhart; Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Jim Lomis & Mr. Roger A. Weaver both abstained.*
- V. PRESENTATION
 - A. None at this time.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:
- VII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – NO COMMENTS
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. Update on the Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant and the Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG): *Mr. Roger A. Weaver stated that damage to the existing dock was caused by the recent tropical storms. Alternatives were discussed with the grant coordinator in regards to changes made due to damage to the floating dock which was damaged beyond repair. The coordinator concurred that as long as the grant funds were used towards the scope of work the floating dock could be moved to a more suitable location at the property. Discussion with the fire department concluded that a hydrant will be placed on the land to ease access should there ever be a fire at the end of the dock. The deadline of the CIG grant for completion of work is September 30th. For the TE grant, a proposal from a consultant from an engineering firm was received and reviewed by direction of Council. A report will be submitted back to council and if approved the work will commence.*
 - B. Update by Marketing Committee & Marketing Materials: *Mr. Gant tabled this item until Mr. A. Jones, III was present. He mentioned that AJ was tasked to determine the cost of developing a brochure to market the SMIG property.*
 - C. Update on RFQ & Site Visit: *Mr. Gant reported that the site visit took place on July 18th at 10:00 am. There were four separate developers represented at the visit. Mr. Gant stated that at the visit he did a brief discussion in general on St. Marys and its history as well as the five objectives of the SMIG committee. Mr. Roger A. Weaver discussed the SMIG property and restrictions and characteristics of the property. Mr. A. Jones, III talked about the Request for Qualification (RFQ) and the dates associated with the request. Mr. Gant reviewed the questions that were asked, which were:*
 - a. *Q: Is there a harbor cleanup program? A: There is not a harbor cleanup program but we do have public/private groups that have cleanup events periodically. Department of Natural*



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Resources (DNR) state rules and regulations apply and also if passed, the Maritime Heritage district will address cleanup issues.

- b. Q: When was the SMIG property acquired by the city? A: The property was acquired in July 2010.*
- c. Q: Have any studies been completed by any hotel developers or convention bureaus for the property being used by cruise ships? A: To date no such studies have been completed.*
- d. Q: Have any studies been completed for convention/conference centers? A: To date no such studies have been completed.*
- e. Q: Has anyone talked about vacating Ready Street? A: Vacating Ready Street has been previously informally mentioned and that all options are on the table.*
- f. Q: Have any cruise ships looked into locating here? A: Approximately two years ago a cruise company was interested in bringing a gambling cruise ship to the area but wanted to implement the project in a two week period. The idea was not feasible in the time allotted. Presently small cruise ships do irregularly call at St Marys.*
- g. Q: Will the city partner on a conference center proposal? A: Yes.*

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion on new meeting time for the SMIG Committee: Mr. Gant stated that at the last meeting it was mentioned that more participation of the committee members was needed. It was proposed that the August meeting take place after the RFQ submissions are received. Copies of the submissions will be given to all board members before the next meeting. After brief discussion it was decided to move the August meeting to Thursday, September 6th at 5:30 pm. The Committee also changed the regular meeting date to the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 to hopefully be more accommodating to all Committee members.*
- B. Review and discussion of notes collected while meeting with developers: Mr. Gant reported on a recent meeting had with a developer interested in the property. The committee reviewed the notes from the meeting.*

Mr. A. Jones, III entered the meeting.

Mr. Gant reported that the notes that the committee read came from the developer during a brief tour of the town and have been answered for the developer.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

Update by Marketing Committee & Marketing Materials: Mr. A. Jones, III presented a draft brochure created for the marketing of the SMIG property. Overall, the draft was well received except to change some pictures to reflect the Submarine Base and Cumberland Island and possibly the distance from I-95.

X. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC – ANY ITEM RELATED TO THE SMIG MISSION – GUESTS MR. & MRS. BOB NUTTER.

- A. Guest Bob Nutter agreed that a picture of the naval base should be added to the marketing document.*

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 7:58 PM Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Teddie Lockhart; Second by Mrs. Mary Neff; Vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 AT 5:00 PM at the DDA BUILDING (Ward Hernandez Building)

*Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.
William Jennings Bryan quoted at the Council presentation on June 14, 2010 regarding the 100 Ready Street Project*