

GRAND JUNCTION DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014
248 SOUTH 4TH STREET
7:30 A.M.

PRESENT: PJ McGovern, Jodi Coleman-Niernberg, Jason Farrington, Kirk Granum, Shane Allerheiligen, Marty Chazen

ABSENT: Kevin Reimer, Stephan Schweissing, Les Miller

STAFF: Harry Weiss, Diane Keliher

GUESTS: Bennett Boeschstein, Rich Englehart, John Shaver

CALL TO ORDER: Jodi called the meeting to order at 7:30

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Marty made a motion to approve the minutes of the APRIL 24th meeting; Kirk seconded; minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW: Harry and Diane have revised the budget report from the City chart of accounts with an explanation of certain line items. There needs to be \$5000 added to the budget for Epic Rides as well as \$2500 for holiday lights. There is \$250,000 for land improvements which includes the White Hall asbestos abatement contract. There may need to be additional amendments to this line item if there are other property acquisitions. Harry asked for clarification of the process of amending the budget. John explained that it requires a supplemental appropriation that would go to council. Marty asked why the sculpture expenses aren't correct. Kirk made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2014 DDA budget; PJ seconded; motion carried.

UPDATES: Harry and PJ met with CMU staff regarding the CMU Art Department leasing the space at 5th and Colorado. CMU would like to have a gallery and ongoing art lessons in a facility downtown. They wanted the DDA to help subsidize their current rent. Harry suggested other properties that are less expensive without trying to interfere with their real estate deal. They will be meeting with Harry again to look at other properties including the Whitman Building. The board would like to bring CMU downtown for economic development.

Joseph of the library would like to put together a media facility. This would be an opportunity to train people for jobs and create a catalog. They have talked about building a facility. Harry suggested using the Valuelodge or White Hall. Marty attended a Rotary meeting at the library and thinks the concept is interesting but he would like to see the business model. This is a project that would be good for a creative district. Jason asked about spaces on Colorado Avenue.

Harry and City staff toured the old jail that is owned by Mesa County as a possibility for the DDA office. It is a poured concrete building that the County uses for IT training. PJ asked if Mesa County would sell the building. Harry stated that they have only talked about leasing the building in partnership with the County.

Jodi feels we are not utilizing the Whitman Building space and would like to see CMU or other non-profit agencies rent it. Marty would also like to see a CMU presence downtown. We may need to provide a shuttle service for students. Jason asked if they are exploring other options. Jodi says it has been a successful venture and student's art has sold. There is lots of foot traffic at that corner. Marty asked if other downtown art galleries were resentful. Kirk said all the galleries work together to make Downtown a cultural center. Jodi said that First Fridays are very successful. CMU would like a retail front to sell Maverick gear.

ADJOURN: Kirk made a motion to adjourn; Jason seconded; the board adjourned at