

MINUTES
Downtown Development Authority
Board Meeting
Friday, January 5, 2001
Reed Building, 350 Main Street

PRESENT:

Bruce Bengé, Chris Launer, P.J. McGovern, Becky Brehmer, Doug Simons, Pat Gormley, Barbara Creasman, Tressa Fisher, Tim Moore, City Public Works, and Jody Kliska, City Public Works

ABSENT:

Cindy Enos Martinez, Bruce Hill, Theresa Kareus, Mark Hermundstad and Kathleen Killian,

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Bengé at 7:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for December 1, 2000 were approved on a motion from Doug Simons and a second by Chris Launer. Motion carried.

COLORADO & 2ND STREET VACATIONS:

Tim Moore and Jody Kliska, City Public Works, gave a presentation on the proposed plan to vacate Colorado Avenue between 1st and 2nd Street and 2nd Street between Main and Colorado. Currently the plan is broken into two phases. Phase I includes the acquisition of Colorado Catfish, which will approximately take place in February 2001, and developing parking to the alley. Phase II includes the acquisition and relocation of Mesa Pawn, which will take place sometime in 2002. Several issues that are still being worked through are; the State wanting the Ute to 1st Street corner made safer by realigning the curve, location and size of the roundabout and other miscellaneous traffic control issues. The parking plan is preliminary, however, staff does not want to move forward with further designs until the ROW vacations are decided. At this time 2nd Street will be vacated but improvements are not included in this phase of development.

Jody Kliska shared the current traffic numbers. In the 100 block of Colorado there are only 900 cars per day. 30,000 on First Street and on Second Street – Main to Colorado there are 2020 cars per days.

Staff will be presenting the plan to City Council on January 15, 2001 and would like support from the Downtown Development Authority, as well as a representative from the DDA to attend the meeting. A motion to approve the support of the DDA was made by Doug Simons, with a second by Becky Brehmer. Motion carried.

Barbara mentioned that the Association has also reviewed the plans and is writing a letter of support. They did mention that with the closure of the entrance into the parking below Two Rivers, off of Main, a better entrance could be developed.

ANNUAL DINNER:

The annual dinner is scheduled for February 22, 2001. Discussion ensued regarding the specific purpose for the dinner and what the topic of the presentation should be. It was decided that a positive approach of the DDA's proactive plans should be related while presenting the following:

- Past year development (Hawthorn Suites, etc.)
- Future development plans (TRCC, Hilton Hotel, etc.)
- Parking changes (fees, future parking structure, etc.)

SHOPPING PARK – 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2002:

The 40th anniversary of Operation Foresight will be in 2002. The board decided that they would like to start planning a celebration of some kind. Barbara Creasman will research some ideas and bring the information to a future board meeting.

PARKING STRUCTURE:

P.J. McGovern presented some changes to the language in the statement for property/business owners to sign that will address Jim Spehar's concerns. (See attached)

Several suggestions for the parking statement were made, such as adding "monthly passes" and their "specific parking location requirements". P.J. will rewrite the statement using the suggestions and will then request help from Ron Maupin in obtaining signatures from the downtown merchants.

Barbara Creasman will verify when the presentation will be presented to City Council and who will need to attend.

DESIGNATION OF POSTING OF AGENDAS:

State Law requires an annual designation of the DDA's official location for the posting of meeting notices. A motion to post the notices on the front door of the DDA office was made by Chris Launer and seconded by Becky Brehmer. Motion carried.

DOWNTOWN LIGHTING AWARD:

Becky Brehmer, Owner of Razzmatazz at 552 Main Street, was presented with the "Best Window Lighting" award. Congratulations Becky!!

REED BUILDING PROPERTY:

A brief discussion took place regarding the status of the empty space in the Reed building. P.J. McGovern suggested talking to The Art Center to see if they are interested in leasing the 1st floor space. It was also suggested to use the possible sale of the Reed building as a Plan B for raising the funds for the future parking structure.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.