

MINUTES
Downtown Development Authority
Board Meeting
Friday, February 9, 2001
Reed Building, 350 Main Street

PRESENT:

Bruce Bengé, Bruce Hill, Chris Launer, Cindy Enos Martinez, P.J. McGovern, Becky Brehmer, Doug Simons, Pat Gormley, Kathleen Killian, Barbara Creasman and Tressa Fisher

ABSENT:

Theresa Kareus and Mark Hermundstad

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Bruce Bengé at 7:32 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for January 5, 2001 and January 8, 2001 were approved on a motion from Chris Launer and a second by Becky Brehmer. Motion carried.

TWO RIVERS EXPANSION:

A motion to transfer ownership of the property on 1st and Colorado to the city was made by Doug Simons and a second by Chris Launer. Motion carried.

Steve Reimer, Jim Shanks and Barbara Creasman recently visited the majority of the businesses on Colorado Avenue between 2nd and 5th Streets to discuss the future closure of Colorado Avenue. Most of the business owners were very supportive of the closure, with an exception of a few that were concerned that the closure would cut off traffic to their business. They are concerned that this closure will make it more difficult for customers coming to downtown from the Redlands. The board members felt that turning on 4th Street to reach Colorado Avenue is better than turning from 1st Street onto Colorado.

ANNUAL DINNER:

The annual dinner is scheduled for February 23, 2001. Board volunteers for the presentation are needed – Becky Brehmer and Chris Launer volunteered.

NEW BOARD MEMBER:

The DDA board is one of the few boards that City Council appoints the members to but does not conduct their own interviews for. Cindy Enos Martinez stated that Council has been reviewing their policies and want to be more consistent. She will notify City Council that the DDA board is ready to proceed with replacing Mark Hermundstad and will determine what City Council's requirements will be.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The board discussed some of the talking points for supporting City Council's proposed debrucing action. One of the most important points is that the debrucing will NOT increase taxes. It is imperative that the board members remember to support the action as "individuals" rather than members of the DDA board.

Barbara Creasman reported that several years ago Dan Wilson called her and asked if the "Ten Commandments" could become a part of Art On The Corner. Gene Kinsey called concerning the more recent discussions and asked Barbara to contact any sculptors who might be willing to create/sell sculptures to City Hall that represent a piece of "history" in order to possibly implement the "Bill of Rights" theme around the perimeter of City Hall.

Barbara Creasman reported that City Council recently voted to approve a feasibility grant for the William's House as a historic site to determine the potential of restoring it.

Barbara also reported that she met with the Art's Commission along with the W.C.B.D.C. who are currently considering turning the old Steamplant building into an Art's Incubator. The DDA did the original feasibility on the building with a grant from the State Historical Fund.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bruce Hill reported that he has been working with Ron Lappi directly on our Financial Reports. He also gave an update on the current transfers from TIF funds and the current balances of the accounts. Bruce reported that at this time, Ron Lappi is recommending that the DDA does not issue another bond. However, if another bond is not issued, we cannot meet current obligations. The city is currently carrying the DDA using the general fund due to the operating budget deficit.

Cindy stated that the City's financial staff is concerned and wants the DDA to operate like all of their other departments. Cindy's recommendation is for the DDA board to develop an immediate plan of action and then request a meeting with Kelly Arnold, Ron Lappi and Barbara Creasman to discuss the future plans in detail. Cindy also stated that she felt it was essential that Barbara Creasman be included in all future financial meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding all of the information presented and that, at this time, pursuing a bond as well as the TIF extension is critical. A motion for Barbara Creasman to obtain all of the necessary bond information from George K. Baum in order to determine a course of action was made by P.J. McGovern with a second by Chris Launer. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.