

GRAND JUNCTION DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

248 S. 4th Street, Grand Junction, CO

7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Karen Vogel, Harry Griff, Scott Howard, Peggy Page, Mike Mast, Jim Doody, Bill Wagner, Steve Thoms, Bill Keith, Harold Stalf

ABSENT: Doug Simons

GUESTS: John Shaver, Donia Moore, George Rossman, Mary Watson

CALL TO ORDER: Scott called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Harry made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; Karen seconded; motion passed.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2006: The DTA meets the third Wednesday of each month; the DDA meets the 2nd Thursday of each month; and the BID meets the 4th Thursday of every third month. Harold will email the final schedule to all concerned.

BID MARKETING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The DTA Board is the BID Marketing Committee. Roxie Denning has resigned from that committee. The bylaws indicate that we must appoint someone at the next meeting, however, due to the short time frame and inability to seek candidates on such a short timeline, John Shaver said we should wait and make the appointment at the October meeting. Harold will ask for nominations at the next Downtowner meeting next Tuesday night. The remaining term is only from October to December. Harry would like to wait until December to open it up to candidates. John doesn't see a problem with waiting until December. Karen mentioned that there was some disgruntlement after the last appointment and would like to put one of those candidates on the board until December. Harold said we could open up a can of worms with hard feelings from some candidates. Harry moved that we table the appointment today and open it up in October; Karen seconded with the addition seeking out a wider population than just at the next Downtowner meeting; Harold suggested the application deadline be October 1; motion carried. An interview committee was formed: Scott, Peggy and Steve.

BID REPS: The DTA board consists of 7 members and 2 representatives from the DDA board. Scott and Karen are the representatives currently. Harry would like to see someone else on the board. Peggy and Bill Keith volunteered to be the representatives to the DTA board.

EVENTS REPORT: George and Mary from Event Masters reported that the Farmers Market is 100% full and will be until the first of September. There is currently a wait list of fifteen people. Most vendors came in as full-time vendors for the full season. There have been some first amendment issues with petitioners who have set up a booth. They were asked to move around the market or set up a table and fill out an application. The sidewalk is a public place, however, this is during a permitted event and interferes with commercial activity. We have the legal ability to control the street. We can have them removed if they do not comply. There are two choices, they can circulate flyers and move around the crowd, but if you want to set up a table, you must fill out an application. We do have a policy of limiting non-profit groups. Another issue is puppies! They are welcome to go to other areas off of Main Street, but puppies are not accepted into the market.

Dogs have also been a problem during the Art and Jazz Festival there were incidents of dogs urinating on the booths. During Farmers Market we have seen dogs go up and sample food! We have the Barky Bus here to educate the public. Harold mentioned that Cinco de Mayo sponsors have asked to have dogs prohibited during their event. John has two drafts of an ordinance for City Council; one would eliminate dogs during any event; the other would allow some events to have dogs and others not if it is actually

affecting the vendors. Steve would like to see the rules we already have in place enforced and asked if the police could have more presence during special events. Harold suggested a short leash and clean up rule. Jim would like to see an article addressing animal control in the newspaper.

Next Tuesday night is National Night Out and the Downtowner meeting. Harold encouraged board members to attend and ask merchants what they would like to see happening on Main Street. As far as smoking on Main Street goes, some officers say that you can't smoke in a city park, however, John said the downtown shopping park has never been designated a city park. Quincy's has put ashtrays in the planters for their customers. Harold asked for feedback on the streets.

The need to tow cars is also an issue. Main Street closes at 3:00 and we go into stores to find owners of cars on the street. We start ticketing at 5 minutes after 3:00. We have had a couple of women extremely angry with us when this has been enforced. There has to be signs every so often and not in every parking space. We do not tow vehicles until 4:00. The authority to tow is based on the signage. We can tow to the City impound or hire a private contractor. John would like to see the car impounded rather than just moved around the corner. We also had to remove someone that was screaming Bible verses. The police were called to the scene.

Harry asked about the number of people on the street. The numbers are up and people are walking down the sidewalk. Bill Keith asked for a merchant survey and a patron survey. Leigh will implement these surveys in September.

Q2 FINANCIAL REPORT – Harold distributed the mid year update for the BID. The income side is doing quite well. He has projected a slight increase in the income for 2006. Income on the events for farmers market is down because of all the farmers this year. Harold noted that we do have booths available in September after school begins and harvest has begun.

Expenses are close to being on budget. The advertising budget hasn't kicked in yet. Harold added that street closures are very expensive this year since we have closed 4th and 5th Streets. We will probably close 4th and 5th for Spooktacular and the Downtown Car Show as well. The Fourth of July parade lost a lot of money this year. We still have no sponsor for 4th of July parade. Karen asked if this was the same budget as the original budget. Harold explained that late last fall this budget went to the City and was approved. Karen asked about non-payers. Harold said the County would go after them and the % of collection is very high.

MEMBERSHIP – Becky Brehmer, Bill Feely, and Betty Rubish have put together a list of potential Friends of Downtown. Please look over the list and help us find people on the second floor of Main Street buildings. There are hundreds of businesses that are on the second floor that could be asked to contribute. We are hoping to get \$3-5000 dollars from this list. Scott requested that we not send a letter to BID members.

SALES TAX UPDATE – Harold handed out the current sales tax report from the City. This year taxes are up by 5.9%. Eating establishment sales are up over 8%. The business district contributes about 1.4 million a year to the city or 4% of the entire city tax revenue. The city's new growth is bringing in new chain stores (Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Kohls, Lowes, etc.)

OTHER – The AOTC golf tournament is a week from tomorrow.

ADJOURN – Peggy made a motion to adjourn; Karen seconded; the board adjourned at 9:15 a.m.