

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

February 26th, 2025, 2PM

Board Member Attendance: Elizabeth Highsmith, Jesse Palmer III, Jenna Maddox, Roxanne Reid

Board Member Absence: Lindsai Gentry, Bill Tinley, Rex Gerlinger

Staff Member Attendance: Don Lively

Other Attendance: Michelle Grimm

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Highsmith at 2:13PM.
- 2) Review and approve/change/accept minutes from previous meeting.
 - a) Motion to approve Jenna Maddox
 - b) Second Jesse Palmer III
 - c) Approved X Not Approved _____
- 3) Partner Reports:
 - a) Chamber of Commerce: N/A
 - b) D.O.O.R. : Boss Hog has filled all slots with cooking teams. They will be posting a series of Facebook videos featuring Mickey Stewart portraying Boss Hog. Fundraising has begun. The musical talent will be Will Mosely.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Don Lively reported that the DDA account balance is \$9266.12 after an incorrectly deposited amount of \$1800 was reconciled into the account, and after a reimbursement from the Chamber of Commerce (hotel-motel/tourism) of \$767.75 was deposited.

b) **Cornhole tournament fundraiser discussion.** Don Lively reported that Daniel Williams will run the actual tournament including collecting entry fees that were not paid ahead of time, setting up the courts and handling all scorekeeping. The board would like to have two inflatables for the kids to be placed north of 7th Street to try to draw attention to that end of Liberty Street. There will be two food trucks including T's and Zack's. Guinness has provided a \$2000 sponsorship. The board plans to have 12 court sponsors and each sponsor will be identified with signage. A golf cart parade will possibly be run by Bo Blanchard. There will be student volunteers from EBA and from Burke County. Rex Gerlinger and Don Lively are trying to design a personalized aluminum cup featuring the event to be sold with drinks during the event. The board scheduled another event planning meeting for Tuesday, March 4th, at 9AM.

5) **New Business:**

a) **Michelle Grimm of Willow Lane** asked to address the board reference the following issues: She would like to see the streets and sidewalks spruced up, particularly the alleys. She inquired about the possibility of having more handrails on Liberty Street. She inquired as to what could be done about the empty building at 627 Shadrack Street, to the rear of Willow Lane. Don Lively informed her that the building was owned by Southern Bank after it was foreclosed on. It was suggested that the City should send a letter to Southern Bank. Ms. Grimm suggested that the dumpster behind her store might be repositioned. She suggested an additional dumpster just for recycling. She suggested overhead parking signs directing visitors to the side street parking areas. She asked what could be done about the continuing problem of vagrants harassing people in the downtown area.

6) **Adjournment:**

- a) **A motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth Highsmith.**
- b) **Second by Roxanne Reid**
- c) **The meeting was adjourned at 3:25PM.**

Notes: