

**MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 10, 2013**

A meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Area Board was held Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Daytona Beach City Hall, 301 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL. The following people were present:

Board Members

Mr. Tony Barhoo
Ms. Denise Cato
Ms. Kenya Ford
Ms. Patricia Heard
Dr. Irma Browne Jamison
Mr. Kenneth McGee

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Martin Tooley, Chair
Mr. Wilburn Williams

Staff Members Present

Mr. Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director
Mr. Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager
Mr. Ben Gross, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Becky Groom, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Ms. Heard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Groom called the roll and noted members present as stated above.

3. Invocation

Mr. Barhoo gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Ms. Cato led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting

Ms. Heard stated that on Page 4, the sentence in Paragraph 7 should read that "there is space between the building and the sidewalk and parking is *not* permitted."

Board Action:

Ms. Cato made a motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2013. Mr. Barhoo seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (6-0).

6. Staff Reports

Police Department

Mr. Bryant stated that he attended the last Compstat meeting and Mr. Tooley attended as well. Mr. Bryant stated the report reflects the areas where crime is increasing, particularly in burglaries and stolen cars. Mr. Bryant stated the Police Department is urging residents to not leave items in plain view inside their vehicles. Mr. Bryant stated the next meeting of Compstat will be December 19 and the meeting time will be changed to 3:00 in January.

Ms. Ford asked if the Police Department is working with apartment complexes to deter crime.

Mr. Bryant stated that many of the apartment complexes do not cooperate with the Police Department and many do not have video to observe their parking areas. Mr. Bryant stated the Daytona Housing Authority does not have cameras on site.

Mr. Bryant stated there is an increase of crime by juveniles who are being encouraged to steal by adults. Mr. Bryant stated when the juveniles are arrested, if there is no space in the detention facilities, the juveniles are released.

Ms. Ford asked if there is anything the Midtown Board or City could do to work with the Housing Authority to encourage them to help the residents.

Mr. Bryant stated he thought it would help to have the concerns brought to the attention of the Housing Authority Board.

Ms. Cato stated Volusia County is the only County in the State of Florida where juveniles are released and there is no follow up. Ms. Cato stated elected officials should be held accountable for this situation. Ms. Cato stated many times victims of crime are afraid to report incidents because they are afraid of retaliation and the offender will not be punished. Ms. Cato stated the Board has been working on the Master Plan and trying to bring development to Midtown. Ms. Cato stated that developers looking to move to the area will not be interested in locating in Midtown once they have reviewed the Compstat report. Ms. Cato stated she would contact the City Commissioner about her concerns about

juvenile crime and juveniles being released and not having a shelter where they can be placed.

Ms. Heard stated that she feels it may be time to hold a meeting with the Zone 6 Commissioner and suggested that it could possibly be held at the Dickerson Center.

Mr. Barhoo stated there needs to be something positive for our youth to do and to keep them involved. Mr. Barhoo stated many churches are trying to develop programs for youth but resources are not available. Mr. Barhoo stated something needs to be developed to make the community better. Mr. Barhoo stated prevention works and perhaps a community meeting could be a start.

Ms. Heard stated a program was held at the Greater Friendship Baptist Church last evening and she was surprised at the poor attendance.

Mr. Barhoo stated an event was held at his church and over 4,000 people attended. Mr. Barhoo stated people are looking for something free.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Bryant stated the Code Enforcement report is included in the Board packet.

Ms. Cato asked if it is the law that if someone is having work done at their home that they must obtain a permit and the permit must be visible to indicate that the permit has been obtained to perform the work.

Mr. Gross stated that generally a permit is required.

Ms. Cato stated the resident at 231 Reva Street remodeled the home and had the building stuccoed. Ms. Cato stated the resident received a notice from the City that the house must be painted since a home cannot be stuccoed and then not painted per City law. Ms. Cato stated the resident was told the house is considered unfinished since it is not painted. Ms. Cato stated the rules should be applied to everyone. Ms. Cato stated there is a mechanic doing work on vehicles in the driveway at his home and that type of work is not permitted in a residential neighborhood. Ms. Cato stated that many times when complaints are called in to Code Enforcement, nothing is done.

Mr. Bryant encouraged Board members to contact him with Code complaints and he will relay the Board's concerns to Code Enforcement.

Ms. Cato stated she is concerned about windows in stores in Midtown being covered with signs and displays. She asked at what point merchants will be held accountable to the law.

Ms. Heard stated she understands what Ms. Cato is saying and stated that perhaps the Board needs to be more vocal at the City Commission meetings.

7. Action Item: DEV2013-102, BCU Comprehensive Sign Plan Amendment

Mr. Bryant read the staff report for the record. Mr. Bryant stated a correction needs to be made to the report in the third paragraph. Mr. Bryant stated the report should read "The sign location is visible to any public right-of-way."

Rob Merrell, Cobb & Cole, stated previously the Midtown Board reviewed the BCU Comprehensive Sign Plan that will address signage for the campus for the next 20 to 30 years in order to create continuity to the signage.

Mr. Merrell stated one sign needs to be rebuilt and the request is to allow more colors and pictures on one sign. Mr. Merrell stated the pictures will not be moving pictures and will be static, graphics only. Mr. Merrell stated the proposed sign would be a message center similar to what is in front of the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Merrell stated the sign will be visible from MMB Boulevard.

Ms. Cato stated Page 5 of Mr. Merrell's report shows the sign with the class years and asked if the class signs will remain.

Mr. Merrell stated the class signs will remain and the old sign will be rebuilt.

Charles Cameron, Central Signs, stated that as the budget has permitted, a sign project is done. Mr. Cameron stated it is important to the Alumni Association to keep the class signs which have been donated by the classes.

Ms. Cato asked if there will be directional signage on campus for various buildings.

Mr. Cameron stated included in the packet is a page of proposed directory signs. Mr. Cameron stated that so far, only two directory signs have been completed, but as the budget permits, it is planned to have directory signs throughout the campus.

Dr. Jamison asked about the sign on the corner of MMB and Martin Luther King and stated she would appreciate if the signage would be on the front and back of the sign. Dr. Jamison stated that as the sign currently exists, it is not visible when entering the campus on George Engram.

Mr. Cameron stated currently it is not planned to have signage on both sides but he said he would address it with Bethune-Cookman.

Pamela Brown, attorney representing Bethune-Cookman, stated the sign plan includes replacing and retrofitting signs over the next 4 to 5 years. Ms. Brown

stated the primary goal over the next two years is refurbishing of the residence halls so funding is directed toward that project. Ms. Brown stated that once the renovations are complete at the residence halls, funding should be available for signage.

Mr. Barhoo asked if there is a restriction to the number of electronic signs that can be permitted.

Mr. Merrell stated there are restrictions unless a Comprehensive Sign Plan is in place and electric signs will be considered on a case by case basis.

Ms. Heard stated representatives of the Class of 1964 will be in touch with him to determine how much it will cost to have the sign revamped.

Board Action:

Dr. Jamison made a motion to approve DEV2013-102, BCU Comprehensive Sign Plan Amendment. Ms. Ford seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (6-0).

8. Redevelopment Project Updates

Mr. Bryant stated the Light Up Midtown Parade was held on December 7 and there were fewer than 50 entries. Mr. Bryant stated that there has been a suggestion made to hold the parade next year on the second Saturday in December so the date does not conflict with the same date that Holly Hill holds their parade. Mr. Bryant stated the health fair included 25 to 30 agencies. Mr. Bryant thanked all of the sponsors that supported the events.

Mr. Bryant stated that the best decorated residence and business will be recognized at the December 18 City Commission meeting.

Mr. Bryant stated that Commissioner Kelly White recently lost her mother and asked that the Board keep her family in their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Bryant wished Ms. Heard a happy birthday.

Mr. Bryant stated that Bill Shanks, the Board's alternate member, has been in the hospital. Mr. Bryant stated that he has not been able to contact him and asked that the Board keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Bryant asked that everyone remember those who are less fortunate during the holiday season.

Mr. Bryant wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

9. Public Comments

Cathy Washington, 937 Lockhart, commended Mr. Bryant for the excellent job he did in coordinating the Light Up Midtown activities. Ms. Washington stated the programs were well received by the youth in the community. Ms. Washington asked that the Board be involved as steering committee members next year. Ms. Washington suggested holding the parade on the first Saturday in December in the evening.

Dr. Evelyn Bethune, 884 Winchester Street, stated the parade and weekend activities were wonderful. Dr. Bethune stated that many times families are not able to participate in events because their children are involved in other activities out of the City. She asked that other events be considered when scheduling events in Daytona Beach.

Dr. Bethune stated the Mary McLeod Bethune Cultural Arts Festival will be held April 6 to April 14, 2014,

Dr. Bethune stated that as she was driving to the meeting this event, she drove by Daisy Stocking Park and it was lit up. Dr. Bethune stated that she would like to encourage the city to be as “gingerly engaged” in Midtown and Daisy Stocking Park as they are with Main Street, the Peabody, and the Ocean Center area. She stated her tax dollars support the City of Daytona Beach and she lives in Midtown.

Dr. Bethune stated there are many young professionals in the community who would like to be involved but are not asked. Dr. Bethune stated if you want new ideas, you have to ask new people and social networking and marketing are important.

Ms. Ford stated that she was unable to participate in the parade and other activities due to her commitment to another organization.

Pierre Lewis, 130 S. Franklin, wished Ms. Heard and Mr. Bryant a happy birthday. Mr. Lewis stated that he works with the youth in the community and is often told there is nothing for them to do. Mr. Lewis stated that there was something for them to do last weekend and he thanked Mr. Bryant for his work in coordinating the Light Up Midtown event.

10. Board Comments

Dr. Jamison talked about communication and stated that most people feel things are posted on Facebook and other social media sites; however, she stated a lot of people do not have internet access and people do not read the newspaper. Dr. Jamison stated we will have to come up with a way to provide information to residents. Dr. Jamison wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Ms. Ford stated we will have to be diverse in how we communicate.

Ms. Ford wished Ms. Heard and Mr. Bryant a happy birthday. Ms. Ford wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms. Heard left the meeting and passed the gavel to Ms. Ford

Mr. McGee stated he has been watching the work that is being done on Granada in Ormond Beach. Mr. McGee stated there was a plan in place for ISB but was screwed up by the incompetence of some of the Departments in the City of Daytona Beach. Mr. McGee stated that if a sense of destination cannot be created on the section of ISB that runs through Midtown, we will not succeed with Midtown because that is where the tax increment money will come from. Mr. McGee stated that why we can't have what other cities have is very bothersome to him. Mr. McGee wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ms. Cato wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Barhoo wished Mr. Bryant and Ms. Heard a happy birthday. Mr. Barhoo thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Midtown Board.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Patricia Heard, Vice Chair

Becky Groom, Recording Secretary