

DDA Minutes
September 18, 2019
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

DDA Members Present: Sarah Murphy Sam Burch Clark Ninneman
Jamie Wyatt Addison Lester

DDA Members Absent: Harlan Shirley Nancy Musselwhite

Staff Present: Brian Wismer Julie Herbert Ray Gibson
Mike Bush Tom Lee

Call to Order:

Murphy called the September 18, 2019 meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Burch and seconded by Lester to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

DCA Monthly Report and Downtown Development:

Wismer gave the DCA Economic Activity/Local Developments/City Hall monthly report for the month of August.

Wismer stated the following:

- 3 Events
- Attendance – 3,628
- Volunteer Hours – 177
- 9 New businesses – 16 Jobs Created
- No Businesses Closings to report
- 1 Building permit - \$270,397
- 3 Properties sold - \$1,049,075
- 5 Rehabs - \$56,600

Most of the Volunteer Hours were involved with the August Friday Night LIVE.

Wismer also stated the following:

Walton Communities and City staff are reviewing site plans and street layouts for future connectivity. The City's master path plan was approved last week by Council. Southern Conservation Trust is considering options for a Downtown Nature Center adjacent to the new, City Center Park, which will be an additional downtown amenity and a good draw for tourism.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for October 1 at 11:00 a.m. and notices will be sent out. Wyatt asked what was the public response to the design plans. Wismer stated that a video for the project was recently posted online and 90% of the public comments on social media were positive.

Murphy asked if the plans are settled. Gibson stated that the guaranteed maximum price will be given next month and the City will adjust the final design depending on budget.

Burch asked if an updated rendering of the site plan could be created so that it can be posted in Burch's business, as well as at Gremlin Growlers and other businesses.

HDF Report:

Lee gave the HDF report for the month of August. Lee stated the following:

- 97 Visitors
- \$260.00 Revenue Collected
- \$30.00 Merchandise Sales
- \$30.25 Cash Donations
- \$14.00 Funds collected from donated items
- 4 volunteers worked a total of 43 hours

Lee stated that the Punch on the Porch – Fiddler's Edition event on September 14 was moved to the inside of the museum due to hot weather conditions, and approximately 35 people attended.

Lee stated that Author Victoria Wilcox is scheduled to do a book relaunch event on September 28 of her three previously published Doc Holliday books.

Other events scheduled:

Cemetery Walk – October 18 – 19.

Margaret Mitchell – Irish History display – November

Victorian Christmas – December 7

Shape Note Singers – March 2020

Financial Report:

Bush presented the financials and noted the annual rent increase at 101 S Glynn property.

Excise tax is down a little from last year; unsure if this will increase or decrease depends a lot on what occurs at Pinewood.

Following Bush's presentation, Murphy stated that the Lester house needs some work.

- The screens look bad; possibly take the screens down.
- Wismer will look into this; Wismer stated that he will need to discuss with Gibson and Bush about issuing an RFP for the cost of repairs, due to the large scope of work involved.

Old Business:

None to Discuss

New Business:

Executive Session – to discuss acquisition or lease of real estate

Motion by Wyatt and seconded by Burch to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wyatt and seconded by Burch to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Discussion:

Lester asked about the changes in ownership at Pinewood, and possible effects on excise tax revenues. Wyatt stated that she has a relative that works for Pinewood and they are sure it will not change much.

Murphy remarked positively about seeing new and different attendees at the Series B concerts, and heard a lot of positive comments overall about Series B.

Lee reported that the historic structure report is still underway on the Lester House, being done by Nicole Gilbert. Lee suggested that the same be done for other historic homes that may be in jeopardy in the future, along with taking extensive photographic records before the homes are demolished.

Adjourn:

Motion by Wyatt and seconded by Lester to adjourn the September 18, 2019 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce R. Waits