

DDA Called Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

DDA Members Present: Sarah Murphy Sam Burch Joe Clark
Addison Lester Nancy Musselwhite
Dan Vano Jamie Wyatt

Staff Present: Brian Wismer Joyce Waits Ray Gibson

Council: Rich Hoffman

Call to Order:

Murphy called the March 9, 2020 meeting to order.

New Business:

Presentation – Proposal for use of Train Depot

- a. Mowell
- b. Kesten

David Mowell stated that he spoke to Wismer some time ago advising him that he was interested in purchasing the Train Depot.

Mowell stated that the vision for the Train Depot would be an extension of services offered by the funeral home. Mowell stated that he wants to keep the Depot as an event center, however, and make upgrades. April Mowell stated that with a few changes, the Depot could be brought up to date and made more beautiful.

Mowell presented a rendering of the changes he would like to make and stated that the most dramatic change would be to lower the Depot back to elevation. Mowell realizes that the cost could be very expensive.

Changes are as follows:

- Move fence back towards the water tower, as it encroaches on the beauty of the Depot.
- Handicap accessible ramp would be relocated to the back side of the Depot.
- Dumpster would be moved to another location.
- Mowell would be willing to take care of the lawn.
- Eliminate all railing
- Interior – Paint and make freight doors functioning (open)
- Build deck
- Kitchen – Extend to make it bigger
- Utilize front room as a “Train Museum”
- Parking Lot – Define parking – bring in more signs
- Make better use of the green space
- Possible renovation of restrooms

Murphy asked the Mowell’s if they are expecting any DDA contributions. Mowell stated that they would like assistance with acquiring a low-interest loan, but they have no problem with securing acquisition funds.

Gibson stated that the fence could not be moved per Chris Hindman, Director of Public Works. Mowell stated that he would get in touch with Hindman to discuss further.

Mowell stated that some things are not compliant with the 2020 code, however should be able to continue to use as-is. Wismer stated that the Inspector with the City viewed the Depot and stated that there are only a few things that need to be corrected.

Wyatt asked how quickly did they want to close. Mowell stated that he would like to close as soon as possible.

Murphy stated that the board would discuss and get back to them as quickly as possible.

Lauren Kesten – Wine Bar

Kesten presented pictures of what her vision would be for the Depot.

- A place to drink wine in the evening
- Morning – Breakfast with limited menu
- Lunch with limited menu
- Rent Depot for small events
- Capitalize on simplicity
- Will not need to make many changes to the facility
- Kitchen is good – no need to remodel
- Outdoor seating with lights
- Smoke Free
- Live Music - guitar

Wyatt asked Kesten if she had a restaurant in the past. Kesten stated that she has been around the restaurant business all of her life and that her father was in the business; however, she had never owned a restaurant.

Murphy asked her about financing; Kesten stated that she would have no problem with financing.

Gibson asked if she had a supplier for the wine; Kesten stated that she did not.

Wismer asked Kesten how long would it take for her to build out the Depot. Kesten stated that all she needed to do was just add pictures and furniture.

Murphy asked what her hours of operation would be. Kesten stated from 7 am to 10 pm 7 days a week.

Kesten stated that she would offer bottled beer and wine. Lester asked how many employees is she planning; Kesten stated about 10 part-time.

Wismer asked Kesten was asked how soon she would like to close; Kesten stated as soon as possible 30 – 60 days.

Executive Session:

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

Motion by Lester and seconded by Clark to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Downtown Projects:

Wisner updated the Board and stated that the engineering documents for the Stonewall Ave road diet are ready to submit to GDOT.

Wyatt asked about the space below Ballard. Hoffman stated that the grandson is moving downstairs where Tribal Chick is currently located. Tribal Chick will be moving to the location where Fayette Mower just moved out. A one-year lease has been signed.

Burch asked about the location where Momma's used to be. Wisner stated that Graves is working on the building and hopes to open the first part of May.

Gibson stated that someone is interested in developing the Jordan property.

Adjourn:

Motion by Burch and seconded by Clark to adjourn the March 9 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.