



The scheduled meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 in Welcome Center Conference Room.

Attendance: *Board Members:* Bruce Ballard, Daa'ood Amin, Holly Murray, Otis Blake, Ben Cook, Jason Chance and Elly Zhilyak. *Staff and Visitors:* Alison Pollard, Patrick Kay, Kenny Smith, Michelle Cobb, Josh Abernathy, and Drew Whalen.

Call to Order – Bruce Ballard called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Approval of the Minutes: Amin made a motion that the minutes from February 19th meeting be approved as written. Blake seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Report

1. Financial Report: Blake went over the finance report for January. There was no change in Façade Program account: Balance of \$3751.56. The Site Acquisition account received interest in the amount of \$7.35 with a final balance of \$38,354.95.
2. Training for new and other members listed on the back of the agenda.
3. General Updates: Patrick Kay mentioned waiting for property owner to send a formal letter for purchasing of bridge. Kenny Smith said LCI was on hold, as the bid came back 1.6 million higher than engineers estimated. However, money has been found, with the bulk coming from ARC. The process is moving forward.

Director's Report

1. General Updates
 - A. Kay explained 2nd Saturdays and passed around a handout with information. First event April 13th from 5-8pm. He encouraged the board to come out and support the community.
 - B. Kay asked for feedback on Business Recruitment Guide before final print. Kay mentioned the Starting A New Business document will be in print immediately. Both documents will go into the downtown resources to help new businesses. Jailhouse Brewing is still on the table. Macon Brewery is also still interested in Griffin. Working on Federal Opportunity Zone to defer capital gains and put into



downtown community. Kay mentioned still looking at 14% empty rate from downtown area. Some properties have sold.

Old/New Business & Announcements

- A. Update on the Old City Hall Renovations: The renovations are moving along with a date of the first of May for moving in. Kay and Smith are hopeful for this deadline.
- B. Façade Grant Program: The Board approved moving forward with the Façade Grant Program at the February meeting. Kay had an application come in from Shade Tree Rentals, 119 S Hill Street, for the Façade Grant Program. Holly Murray made a motion with Otis Blake who seconded. The \$500 Fresh Paint Initiative Grant approved with an anonymous vote.
- C. Internal RLF: Kay provided a draft of the guideline and application materials that will be used for this program. The discussion continued from last meeting. The board had more questions on how accessible the loan program would be. They want to ensure the program is structured right and people won't default on loans. The board is hoping for a more defined program review at the next meeting.

Board Member Introduced Topics

Kay acknowledged a Coalition Meeting on Friday. Kay spoke about the alliance working on signage around town to help reduce the clutter. The goal is to create larger signs that can identify attractions around town. Everyone is working together to help achieve this goal.

Alison Pollard gave Chamber updates. Pollard mentioned the Business After Hours being held at the Chicken House that evening from 5pm to 8pm.

Adjourn

Amin motioned for the meeting to be adjourned with Murray seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

Attest:
Patrick Kay, Economic Development & DDA Director