



CITY OF FOREST PARK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Council Chambers

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
Phone Number: (404) 363.2454

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

MINUTES

Angelyne Butler, *Chairwoman*
Nachae Jones, *Vice Chairwoman*
Jacklyn Faith, *Member*
Nancy Howard, *Member*
Tre Holland, *Member*
Dhaval Shah, *Member*
Eric Stallings, *Member*

MEETING NOTICE:

Due to COVID-19, CDC requirements of Masks and Social Distancing will be adhered.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chairwoman Butler called the Downtown Development Authority meeting on October 27, 2022, to order at 5:36pm.

Present:

Angelyne Butler
Nachae Jones
Jacklyn Faith
Nancy Howard

Also Present:

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
Mike Williams, City Attorney
Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director
Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director
Charise Clay, Economic Development Staff Assistant
Councilwoman Kimberly James
Ed Wall, City of Forest Park Financial Advisor
Billy Freeman Jr., Development Authority Chair

Absent:

Tre Holland
Dhaval Shah
Eric Stallings

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Jacklyn Faith seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to amend the agenda with the addition of item#4: David Welch -Tax Abatement. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Nachae Jones made a motion to amend the agenda with the addition of item#5: Presentation from Rich Goldberg of Blue Star Studios. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

2. The Collaborative Firm Agreement

Michael Hightower of the Collaborative Firm led the discussion:

- He discussed some of the previous years' PR highlights, like being featured multiple times in Georgia Trends and in the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Within the next 3 months, the firm plans to finalize edits to the website, finalize the strategic plan for the next 12 months, and prepare the digital newsletter for this fall. More videos and social media activities will be coming soon as well. More frequent conversations between the Collaborative Firm and the City's Public Information Officer will occur also. He also mentioned that a new Marta facility will call Forest Park home.

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the Collaborative Firm's agreement for consulting services. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Economic Development Update

Bruce Abraham, led the discussion:

- Gillem Logistics Center: A very large prospect is looking to put their business at Gillem Logistics Center. 3 restaurants and a brewery are also interested in setting up shop at Gillem. Research on the repurposing of the old Fire Station is being done to see if a restaurant can be put there and what the lease vs sale rates would be.
- Anvil Block Road: Anvil Block Rd. is about 10 years old. Due to the increased truck traffic, repairs to the road are needed. The repairs should be in the \$150,000 range. A public bid will take place for the contract.
- GDOT: Meetings between the City and the Georgia Department of Transportation are still being had as it relates to the upkeep of the entrances and exits of the city.
- DA Façade Grant: Last fiscal year, \$200,000 were allocated for the Façade Grant Program. Another \$100,000 has been added to this year's budget for the program.
- Forest Park Business Association: After the success of the first event, plans for a second event at the beginning of next year are under way.

- Film Friendly Business Strategy: The Economic Development Department is looking to develop a film-friendly economic development strategy. A film ordinance is also being constructed. 10 locations throughout the city have already been designated as film/video friendly.
4. David Welch- Tax Abatement: Discussed in Executive Session.
 5. Presentation by Rich Goldberg of Blue Star Studios:
 - Mr. Goldberg brought high-resolution renderings of the studio for the board's review. Photos of the project can be found on their website. The studio's opening announcement was covered locally and nationally. 18 sound stages will be housed on the studio's campus ranging from 5,000 sq. ft. upward to 40,000 sq ft. The old Army Headquarters building at Gillem will be converted into office space for the all the stages. The project totals around \$180 million and about 600,000 sq. ft. of development. Project development will take place in phases. Blue Star will also have their branding across the water tower that towers over all of Gillem.

/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(Executive Session may be called for issues concerning Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

Nachae Jones made a motion to exit the regular meeting and enter executive session at 6:00pm. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:37pm. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-1555.