



CITY OF FOREST PARK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 24, 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*
Steve Bernard, *Vice Chairman*
Ed Taylor, *Secretary*
Nachae Jones, *Member*
Eric Stallings, *Member*
Jacklyn Faith, *Member*
Nancy Howard, *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 February 24, 2022, to order at 5:30 pm.

Present:

Angelyne Butler
Steve Bernard
Ed Taylor
Nachae Jones
Nancy Howard
Eric Stallings (Arrived at 5:35pm)

Also Present:

Mike Williams, City Attorney
Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director
Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director
Charise Clay, Economic Development Staff Assistant

Absent:

Jacklyn Faith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of Downtown Development Authority Regular Meeting Minutes- January 20th, 2022

Ed Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as is. Nancy Howard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Williams asked the board to amend the original agenda due to adding two agenda items: Resolution acknowledging the assignment of the Gillem 1100 lease and Resolution to approve the extension of the contract with the Collaborative Firm

- Nachae Jones made a motion to amend the agenda for additional items. Ed Taylor seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Economic Development Update

Bruce Abraham led the Economic Development Update:

- Façade Grants: Business owners on Main Street have the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000, to invest in the restoration of the exterior of their building. 3 grants have already been approved.
- Grand Openings: Jen Care a senior health care facility just opened.
- Townhomes on Main Street: The project is set to close within 2 weeks.
- Zaxby's: The restaurant chain is set to close very soon-within 2 weeks.
- Building 751-771 on Main Street: Construction on the deck between the two buildings is finally under way. A ribbon cutting will take place once the construction is done.
- Amazon: An event and tour will be hosted at the new Amazon facility at the Gillem Logistics Center in April.
- Business Coalition: Bruce Abraham met with Rev. Clinkscales of the Rock Church of Atlanta and other members of the community to discuss establishing a workforce development center to assist citizens with employment.

3. DDA Training Opportunity

Chairwoman Butler led the discussion on the DDA Training Opportunity:

- The vision is to have a 2-day retreat for all the boards (DDA, URA, & DA) the first weekend in May (Friday & Saturday), potentially in Stone Mountain. Friday would be devoted to training. The DA & URA have similar trainings and will be in one room of instruction. The DDA will have their own instructor due to different material. On Saturday, all 3 boards will come together for a joint economic development initiative, where everyone discusses their roles & responsibilities and how to move the city forward collectively.

4. Resolution acknowledging the assignment of Gillem 1100 lease to T.A. Royalty

Mike Williams led the discussion on the resolution:

- The DDA conducted the tax abatement for Gillem 1100 & Gillem 1200, which are set to close within coming weeks. The Gillem 1100 building has been sold. They are requesting a resolution acknowledging assignment to the new purchaser.

Nachae Jones made a motion to accept the new resolution. Ed Taylor seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Resolution to approve the extension of the contract with the Collaborative Firm

Mike Williams led the discussion on the resolution:

- The current contract expires in April. The contract needs to be approved for another year for the annual amount of \$84,000. Payments will be split between the DDA & URA, due to both boards using their services.

Ed Taylor made a motion to extend the Collaborative Firm contract for one more year. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Nachae Jones made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter executive session at 5:48pm. Steve Bernard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Ed Taylor made a motion to end executive session and resume the regular meeting at 5:57pm. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the contract for the Executive Director, which will be Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper. Steve Bernard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Nancy Howard made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:57pm. Ed Taylor 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.