

CITY OF MONROE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SPRING TRAINING RETREAT
APRIL 17, 2023 – 8:00 A.M.

The Downtown Development Authority met for their Spring Training Retreat.

Those Present:	Lisa Reynolds Anderson	Chairman
	Meredith Malcom	Vice-Chairman
	Andrea Gray	Secretary
	Whit Holder	Board Member
	Chris Collins	Board Member
	Myoshia Crawford	City Council Representative
	Lee Malcom	City Council Representative

Those Absent:	Wesley Sisk	Board Member
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Staff Present:	Leigh Ann Aldridge, Logan Propes, Beth Thompson, Beverly Harrison, Chris Bailey, Kaitlyn Stubbs, Sara Shropshire
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Visitors:

I. Alcohol Ordinance

City Administrator Logan Propes explained there will be some standard cleanup items done on the Alcohol Ordinance; he will need further discussion and direction from Council prior to proceeding.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed license amounts and hours for businesses serving alcohol. They discussed the support of the DDA for not changing the Ordinance.

Committee Member Whit Holder discussed having to get a caterer with an alcohol license or having to get a special events license when holding events.

Committee Member Chris Collin stated in Lawrenceville they are required to have food at every event that has alcohol. When they bring their own alcohol, there is no way of controlling the amount.

Mr. Propes stated those changes should not be a problem; he will work with the attorney and get a draft done. He explained Council can specify what changes they want made in the Ordinance, but a vote is not needed if the cups are going to remain the same.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed whether wedding venues would be able to serve alcohol on Sundays and the possibility of a wine shop.

Council Member Myoshia Crawford explained she has been getting a lot of phone calls, which keeps making her go back and forth. There are more important issues that should be being discussed. She stated the whole issue has just gone too far.

The general consensus of the Committee was to leave the open container part of the Ordinance as it is now.

II. Parking

Ms. Sara Shropshire explained that the research has shown that a parking garage is not a good first step for the City. She is working with the Carl Vinson Institute and has talked with Park Mobile about meters. Nothing is paid upfront; part of the funds collected go towards the meters.

The Committee and Mr. Logan Propes discussed educating the public about parking, renaming the lots, a parking campaign, parking reimbursement, and paid parking.

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the City is trying to do the right thing, without spending millions on a parking garage yet.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed the additional spaces that will be gained with the Wayne Street property and the possibility of a future parking garage on Wayne Street.

Ms. Shropshire suggested going with the Carl Vinson Institute first, and she will get more information from Park Mobile.

Chairman Anderson requested Ms. Shropshire to come back to the Committee with a plan.

The Committee and Ms. Aldridge discussed parking areas for events and using shuttle services. They also discussed having a Parade Committee, looking at the parade fees, and cutting out the candy.

III. Signage, Dumpster Locations, Alleys

Mr. Chris Bailey explained the area behind Blue Rooster is waiting for the Smith Estate to go through probate. He discussed alley way rehabs and putting signage in areas where it can be enforced.

Committee Member Chris Collin stated next time he is in Duluth he will take some pictures of the signs there and send them to the Committee Members.

Mr. Bailey stated they are looking into some dumpster corals.

The Committee, Mr. Logan Propes, and Mr. Bailey further discussed deliveries, signage, and alley ways.

IV. Police Precinct Downtown

City Administrator Logan Propes explained that Chief Watts does not want to lose any officers to a building. The officers can do their paperwork in their vehicles and do not need to be inside. Chief Watts can deploy more officers to be walking in the downtown area; funds could be spent on officers instead of a building.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed having a designated place for the officers to park in downtown and having some signage placed for them to have a specific spot.

V. Noise Ordinance

The Committee discussed loud vehicles, mufflers, and music coming through downtown.

City Administrator Logan Propes discussed some of the noise revolving around deliveries and looking at when to encourage deliveries to be made.

Ms. Sara Shropshire stated some Cities have cameras that catch certain disciplines and take pictures of the tags, but she does not know how much they would cost.

Chairman Anderson recommended signage and requested for Ms. Shropshire to get some pricing for the cameras.

The Committee discussed how the speed tables have helped with the muffler and music noise in some areas. They discussed Advocacy for Kids doing a noise campaign as a Community Project and the possibility of strengthening the Noise Ordinance.

Mr. Propes stated he will see about strengthening the Ordinance.

VI. Main Street Communities

Ms. Leigh Ann Aldridge explained that she used to rely heavily on the different Committees. She discussed reestablishing the Committees and how they are able to help get things done outside of the monthly DDA Meetings. The four sub-committees would be Design, Economic Vitalization, Organization, and Promotions.

Council Member Lee Malcom stated a Social Media Committee would be great.

The Committee discussed the success of Monroe and the need for more affordable housing.

VII. Museum Partnership

The Committee discussed partnering with the Museum for the QR Code Project and contributing funds to organizations as donations.

Committee Member Meredith Malcom stated the Museum does a walking tour that promotes Downtown, and the DDA owns their building.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed the possibility of having a City owned and run Museum. They discussed different possibilities for the Museum, the building, and contributions.

Committee Member Chris Collin stated when the Museum is gone, that information will also be gone.

The general consensus of the Committee was to appoint Andrea Gray as the point person from the DDA for the Museum, to let them know the long-term plan, to update the amount and language of the two-year lease, and to add a community agreement showing why the amount is being discounted.

VIII. Monroe Sign on Water Tower

Committee Member Meredith Malcom explained she has a meeting with Bruce Verge and Wesley Sisk tomorrow at 3:00 to discuss the water tower signage. She stated according to Mr. Verge it will not be a difficult project.

Chairman Anderson requested the Committee to think about a replacement for the vacated seat of Ross Bradley.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the City will advertise and interview the applicants. The recommendation can be made from there.

The Committee and Mr. Propes discussed welcoming diversity on the Board and encouraging people to apply.

Mr. Propes explained the applicant must live in the City and have a Downtown presence.

The Committee discussed trucks and trailers parking in town overnight.