

City of Charlotte
Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2014

This regular meeting of the City of Charlotte Downtown Development Authority for Thursday, July 10, 2014 was called to order by Chairperson Sommer at 7:30 a.m.

B. Myrkle called **the Roll**:

Present: Jeannette Sommer, Doug Buck, Mike Lahr, Travis Silvas, Mayor Burch.

Absent: Tom Hewitt, Tim Jewell, Bob Phillips

Staff: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development

Public: There was no members of the public present to address the board.

Minutes: Doug Buck made a motion to approve the May 8, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Lahr supported the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Agenda:

- A. **Parking lot purchase** – Bryan Myrkle told the board that the City Council has approved a purchase agreement with the owner of the former Bank of America properties downtown. The purchase would include the parking lot behind the main bank building, and the former bank drive-thru location on Bostwick Street. The purchase price is to be \$125,000. He said this money would come from the City parking lot fund, and would likely delay the reconstruction of the parking lot where The Corral building used to be.
- B. **Kiwanis Flag Project** – Bryan Myrkle talked to the board about the Kiwanis Flag project. He said the DDA did

contribute the \$500 authorized to the project, and is listed as a sponsor. He said the DDA combined its money with other city funds to purchase the new, heavy-duty flag brackets.

- C. **Celebrate Charlotte Festival Update** – Bryan Myrkle spoke to the board about changes to the Celebrate Charlotte Festival intended to increase the focus on the downtown district, or make functional improvements to the festival. The changes included moving the car show to the Courthouse Square area, and having a 'Blues and Brews' event at Beach Market. He said the committee has had mostly positive feedback on the changes.
- D. **Weeds & appearance issues downtown** – Bryan Myrkle said the city has been getting complaints about the conditions in the rear of certain buildings downtown, many of them focused on tall weeds. He said there are also regular complaints about litter. He said the city sent weed complaint notices to 10 different properties downtown. He said the city has weeded its own flower beds and also sprayed for weeds downtown. He said the DDA and City have to set a good example, but that downtown appearance also depends a lot on the actions of private property owners. Mike Lahr said that it's an issue of personal responsibility for everyone who owns property downtown. He said the people who own buildings need to have some pride in them, and that would in turn help their vacancy rate. The board also talked about different strategies and ideas for dealing with the litter.
- E. **MSHDA Apartment Project** – Bryan Myrkle said there has been enough interest in downtown apartment development for the city to proceed with an application to the Michigan State Housing Development Association for grant funding.
- F. **Summer Concerts on the Square** – Bryan Myrkle gave the board an update on the summer concerts schedule, and talked about some of the sponsorships and special events planned for this year. He said the first concert was happening that evening.
- G. **Farmer's Market** – Bryan Myrkle told the board about the growing interest in the Farmer's Market by the Can Do! Entrepreneurship Pillar and their desire to help market and otherwise support the market. He also spoke about the

possibility of getting the youth entrepreneurship group Generation-E involved.

- H. **Banner Poles** – Bryan Myrkle said there is renewed interest in getting the over-street banner poles repaired or replaced, as groups like Frontier Days, Courthouse Square and Hayes Green Beach Hospital have a desire to use them.
- I. **Consumers Light Poles** – Bryan Myrkle told the board that Consumers Energy plans to replace up to a dozen of the street lights downtown this fall. Consumers will be working to closely match the existing light poles.
- J. **Dumpster policy** – Bryan Myrkle talked about some of the problems he is having working with business owners or contractors who need to place dumpsters in the downtown area, either permanently or temporarily. He said that without some kind of official policy, it is difficult to resolve dumpster issues. He said that he tries to accommodate business needs, but also does not like giving up parking spaces for dumpsters. Doug Buck said that disposing of things like corrugated cardboard is very difficult and takes up a lot of space. Travis Silvas said that there is not enough parking spaces to allow many more dumpsters, and the city may need to consider a policy and possibly identify areas where dumpsters can go. He said that a residential size disposal container should be big enough for most downtown businesses. Bryan Myrkle said that he would continue looking for a model policy from another community.
- K. **Other business** – Mike Lahr asked for the city to look into the construction barrel by CVS Pharmacy on Cochran, and find out if MDOT had any plans to fill the hole there.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.