

MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – Via Teleconference
Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 7:30 a.m.

Attendance

Chair Michael Carro, Kevin Lehman, Adam Cobb, Jean Pierre N’Dione, Patti Sonnen
Councilwoman Ann Hill, *ex officio*, Commissioner Robert Bender, *ex officio*
Lissa Dees, Executive Director

Call to Order

- a. Chair Carro called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and asked that Mrs. Dees share the ED announcement under New Business at this time.
- b. Mrs. Dees announced that she will resign the position of Executive Director effective October 1, 2020, and will continue sharing her knowledge and expertise in the management of parking as an employee of the City.

Recurring Agenda

- a. Mrs. Dees confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.
- b. The board unanimously approved the proposed meeting agenda for July 28, 2020.
- c. The board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of DIB held on June 24, 2020.

Parking

- a. July DPMD Consent Agenda
 1. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Lehman and seconded by Ms. Sonnen.
 2. Chair Carro discussed the selection of Flowbird as a software provider and said that since parking is being turned over to the City, and an exhaustive research for an app provider has not taken place, he is not in favor of making a recommendation at this time. Mr. Cobb likewise does not want to make a decision that will bind the City and wants a parking plan that the public will be able to understand. Mr. N’Dione stated he does not feel this is an ultimate fix for parking and is concerned about the public’s perception and understanding.
 3. Mr. Lehman stated that he is confident in the research done by the ED in the selection of Flowbird and suggested that the resources are available for anyone to be able to review and be sold on Flowbird as well.
 4. Committee Chair Bednar pointed out that representatives of the City weighed in at the parking & traffic meeting and were in favor of the selection of Flowbird.
 5. Addressing some of the board’s concerns, Mrs. Dees explained that the inclusion of private parking is a significant consideration and that Flowbird’s app will include parking in the private sector. Rather than being only a parking app, Flowbird will encompass many areas, such as public transportation, ferries, sidewalks, and managing streets to ensure an even disbursement of traffic throughout the city.

6. Mr. Zimmern suggested holding the item for 30 days and getting more input from the City. Mrs. Dees advised that cancellation notices were sent out per the decision of the committee and board, and those contracts will expire October 1. Delaying the decision may leave insufficient turnover time to integrate the new system.
 7. Mr. Lehman asked the board members who are not confident in the push to Flowbird to state their specific objections to give guidance to Mrs. Dees.
 8. Mr. Cobb stated he is not comfortable voting for a contract that is going to extend well into the City's control and suggested that the City should make the decision. Mr. N'Dione agreed.
 9. Mrs. Dees advised that this would be an addendum to an already-existing contract with Flowbird to provide pay stations and will be reviewed by the City Attorney. It has already been approved by the City.
 10. After more discussion, and hearing the thoughts of Councilwoman Hill and Commissioner Bender, Mr. N'Dione made a motion to wait 30 days and address the matter on the next agenda. Motion failed for lack of a second.
 11. Mr. Cobb then made a motion that DIB continue to work with the City to transition parking, and take steps to ensure the City is in the best position, once the transition occurs, to sign the most appropriate software provider for the City; but ultimately that it is the City entering into the contract, not the DIB. Seconded by Ms. Sonnen.
 12. Mr. Lehman asked if that plan would cause a lapse in having a parking map and expressed concern that the transition may occur during increased holiday parking.
 13. Mr. Bobby Switzer expressed his preference to have been contacted personally about the proposed changes and asked that the decision be postponed.
 14. Mr. Cobb restated his motion as follows: That DIB take steps to transition parking to the City and don't vote on the new parking app, but rather work with the City, work with the parking provider to ensure that upon that transition, the City is in the best position to enter into that new contract.
 15. Mr. N'Dione amended the motion to also ask Mrs. Dees to get with the private sector while what Mr. Cobb stated in the motion is being done with the City. Seconded by Mr. Cobb.
 16. Motion carried 3-1 with Mr. Lehman dissenting.
 17. Motion to approve DPMD Consent Agenda again made by Mr. Lehman and seconded by Mr. Cobb. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. City transition update – discussed above.

Finance

- a. July Finance Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.
- b. DIB - June financial report was approved unanimously.
- c. DPMD - June financial report was approved unanimously.
- d. DIB 2021 Budget
 1. Chair Carro questioned the decreased salary for the incoming Executive Director.
 2. Mrs. Dees explained that the position will have responsibility for DIB only, rather than for both DIB and parking. A ratification can be done if necessary, and there is flexibility within the budget from which to obtain other funds.

Ongoing Business

- a. StreetPlus June report – Update given by Mrs. Dees.
- b. Street cameras update – All cameras have been installed except the one to be installed on Seville Tower which is still being negotiated.
- c. Palafox Market update – Special event permits remain on hold through August.
- d. Romana Street Puppy Pitstop
 1. Tentative date for the grand opening is August 26. Staff will send an e-mail confirming the date and Mrs. Dees hopes everyone can attend.
- e. Anti-litter and Recycle campaign – Update given by Mrs. Dees.
- f. City Inspections Contractor Survey
 1. Mr. Lehman reintroduced the survey to the group and a discussion ensued.
 2. Councilwoman Hill asked that the findings be presented to the City Council.
 3. The item was approved unanimously.

New Business

- a. Drain Art, Dixon School of Arts & Sciences
 1. Pictures of various drain art were provided to the board. Mrs. Dees and Caron Sjoberg of Ideaworks have been working with Dixon and suggested that students paint the 6-7 drains in the alley behind Jefferson Street Garage to remind businesses or people working there not to throw trash in the drains. This also would provide community outreach and would give the students and their families an opportunity to have a stake in downtown and something of which to be proud.
 2. Motion to approve made by Mr. Cobb and seconded.
 3. After some discussion, Mr. Cobb updated the motion to approve up to seven paintings in locations to be determined through working with Mrs. Dees and staff. Seconded by Ms. Sonnen and carried unanimously.
- b. ED 3rd Quarter bonus
- c. ED announcement – previously discussed.

Marketing Report

- a. The June marketing report was presented by Freddie Haydn-Slater of Ideaworks.

On Hold

- a. CRA & Parking Interlocal Agreement renewals – October 2020

Upcoming Events

- a. August 4 – Virtual Civicon – Dr. Cedric Alexander, expert on police reform
- b. August 17 - Session 2 on Affordable Housing
- c. November 18 & 19 - EntreCon – Pensacola Little Theater, \$275 and up, registration required

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.