

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2016
3:00pm – 5:00pm
ADDA Offices
250 W. Broad Street, Suite 108
Athens, Georgia 30601**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Blackmon, Regina Quick, Erica Cascio, Lori Paluck, Patrick Garrard, Mike Hamby, Jennifer Zwirn, and Mayor Denson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pamela Thompson, Christi Christian, Elise LeQuire, Chuck Horton, Russell Edwards, Rusty Heery, Irvin Alhadeff, Jill Helme, Jim Thompson, Blake Aued, Melissa Link, Jason Leonard, Lt. Odom, Adam Hebbard, Bill Overend, Fred Moorman.

MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Chris Blackmon called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2016, Regular Meeting
Mayor Denson motioned, seconded by Patrick Garrard, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
2. Presentations – Barbara Jean Brown was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor Denson stating March 15, 2016, was “Barbara Jean Brown Day” in honor of her 20 years of employment with ADDA/DAPS. Barbara was also given a framed certificate and a downtown gift certificate honoring her years of service. A reception was held for her after the meeting.
3. Public Input – Three-minute limit per person
Irvin Alhadeff, owner of Masada, spoke to the Board concerning the panhandlers and homeless in downtown, a problem he has seen growing exponentially for the past three years. Mr. Alhadeff spoke of an incident that occurred involving a vagrant man who set up camp in one of his downtown properties. Mr. Alhadeff wants the ADDA to back the business owners in trying to persuade the local government to legislate regulations to control the excessive vagrancy downtown, which he says is hurting current business owners and driving away prospective downtown business owners.

Rusty Heery gave further accolades to Barbara Jean, as well as his opinion on the proposed game day parking rate changes.

4. Community Reports

*Four Athens

*DABA

DABA is promoting deck parking for one week in April (24-30) with the “Dig the Decks” campaign. Four Athens report in packet. MacIntosh Shouters sent a thank-you note for the ADDA sponsorship.

5. Director's Report

A. Beautification Update

Crepe Myrtles have been planted in the College Square planters, and the iron railings are coming soon. Solid Waste is requesting an additional full-time litter technician for downtown next fiscal year. This will also add hours for the sidewalk scrubber. They are also auditing the number of newspaper stands downtown, planning to repaint the ones that are still in use and replacing others with additional receptacles for trash, recycling, ash trays, and pet waste. The ADDA is hoping to assist with these efforts.

B. "Fire Up the Hydrants" program

Information was provided in the packet. Several Unified Government departments are working on this campaign to promote water conservation. Eighteen fire hydrants will be selected to be painted by local artists. The event culminates with a two-mile fun walk through downtown past all 18 of the painted fire hydrants.

C. Research on downtown trees being lit.

The Director spoke with David Fluck at Central Services about lighting additional trees downtown. He stated that there are some challenges to lighting additional trees, but he is open to the idea. Current lit trees are being converted to LED lights, and the county is paying the lowest available rates to Georgia Power. The Director and staff will audit prospective additional downtown trees that are large enough to be lit downtown.

D. 2016 General Assembly Update- ADDA Boundary

The ADDA Boundary change request did not get approved by the Assembly. There were some questions from some senators about the boundary map and particular parcels' ownership that could not be answered in a timely manner. The ADDA will work to add privately owned parcels that want to join the boundary along with the government-owned and housing authority-owned pieces to make the boundary lines clearer and less piecemeal. The boundary can be brought to the Assembly again next year.

E. ACC requests for ADDA to address parking issues

Commissioner Allison Wright has asked the ADDA to look at adding parking spaces on-street where there are currently curb cuts that lead nowhere. The ADDA will audit how many curb cuts exist as a starting point. The Transportation and Public Works Departments have asked the ADDA to propose a limit to the length of cars parked on Clayton Street by painting the checkerboard stripes at the maximum length allowed, as was done on Broad Street. The ADDA did not add the checkerboard lines on Broad Street. Larger vehicles parked in the metered spaces on Clayton tend to impede traffic, especially when delivery trucks are present in the center lane. The parking spaces near intersections are of particular concern. The Director will contact David Clark and ask that ACC take this request straight to the Mayor and Commission. Mike Hamby asked the Director to make a formal request to ACC Mayor and Commission to go ahead

and place the single-space meters on Clayton Street. Chuck Horton responded to the Mayor's question about the meters not working. The batteries drain quickly on overcast days and excessive credit card use. Staff rotates the batteries to recharge as best they can.

F. ADDA Receptionist Position

Director requested a 30-hour-per-week receptionist position for FY17 to help with the gift certificate program, which is a very time-consuming process. Regina Quick wanted to table the discussion and receive additional information on the necessity of hiring a receptionist.

G. TSPLOST Projects for Downtown

Board was given copies of a section from the Downtown Master Plan by Professor Crowley that showed the transportation element: roads, bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway spaces. Mike Hamby is hoping to partner approved TSPLOST projects with the completion of the Clayton Street project and larger areas downtown.

6. Unfinished Business

A. FY17 Parking Rate and Fine Change Request

The Board was given copies of the comments received about parking rate changes from the downtown business owners. ADDA/DAPS had proposed the expired meter fine be raised to \$25 on game days to discourage UGA game attendees from occupying metered spaces downtown all day on game days, freeing up those spaces for customers and encouraging the use of the lots and decks for game day parking. Also proposed was an hourly rate increase in the parking rate for metered spaces and an hourly decrease in rate for deck parking, so they would cost the same amount, \$1/hour. There was much discussion about what difference, if any, the \$25 fine would make on deterring game day parking in metered spaces, and whether the business owners would see a difference in business if the space turnover was greater. Director reminded the Board that the proposed budget was created based on the increase rate for metered parking, and that a motion needed to be made on that matter to stay on the budget approval timeline with The Mayor and Commission. Mike Hamby motioned to recommend raising the rate of metered parking to \$1 per hour, and lowering the rate of deck parking to \$1 per hour. Erica Cascio seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mike Hamby motioned to hold further discussion on fines until the next meeting. Patrick Garrard seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

7. New Business

A. FY16 CEP Additional Funding Request from AthFest

AthFest has submitted a request for the additional discretionary funds for this year's event. The Director emailed to the Board the requested 2015 budgeted versus actual expenses report from AthFest. Jill Helme was present to answer questions from the Board. Mayor Denson motioned to table allocating the discretionary funds until June. Regina Quick seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. FY17 CEP Funding

Regina Quick motioned and Mike Hamby seconded to table the CEP funding vote. Motion carried.

C. RFP for Redevelopment of ADDA lot near Hotel Indigo

Chis Blackmon gave background information on the development of the RFP. Mike Hamby motioned to move the RFP forward to the Mayor and Commission. Regina Quick seconded the motion, and the motion carried with Patrick Garrard opposing.

D. Discussion of Downtown Panhandling

The Board agrees that something should be done about the amount of panhandling that occurs downtown. The ADDA in the past has made recommendations based on other cities' ordinances dealing with panhandling. The response from the county attorney's office has deemed those recommendations unconstitutional, so nothing has changed. The Director recommended investigating other cities' use of tourism districts to limit the amount of panhandling in certain areas of town. Chris Blackmon suggested re-submitting the ordinance suggestion to the Mayor and Commission. Regina Quick suggested taking all of these ideas and presenting them to the Mayor and Commission at their meeting.

8. Financial Report - ADDA and DAPS

Pamela Thompson presented the financial reports and answered questions from the Board. The Director is asking for an increase in the parking expenditure budget to cover the additional cost of the credit card transaction fees.

9. Suggest agenda topics for following month's meeting

FY17 ADDA Budget, FY17 CEP, additional feedback and information on the parking fines and how they can be enforced.

10. Executive Session – if needed

None needed.

11. Adjourn

Erica Cascio motioned, seconded by Mike Hamby, to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 pm.

Chris Blackmon, Chair

Pamela Thompson, Director