



MEETING MINUTES

Quick called the meeting to order at 8:31 am and welcomed members, city staff and guests. Members present: Randy Quick, Kelli Duncan, Megan Watters, Elaine Abercrombie, Tayesha Lytle, and Allison Watters. City staff present: Aundi Lesley, Megan Otwell, Jennifer Bailey, Julie Harris, Kelley Parker, and Doug Walker.

ACTION

Approve August 2022 Minutes – All were in favor to approve.

Approve BID Financials – All were in favor to approve.

DISCUSSION

Committee Update –

- Design: Gateway project is still in progress. Final drawings were changed due to engineering feedback.
- Business Development: Committee will be doing a walkabout to inventory vacancies. Roof work on the incubator building will begin in October. The RFP for architectural design drawings will be going out soon.
- Parking: \$2 Deck Days are happening this month and volunteers are still needed. Duncan asked how the Deck Days were being promoted. Per Otwell, the event has been marketed through social media, flyers, radio, and a press release. Duncan asked that staff consider free parking at decks on days of DDA events. Lytle asked if there was directional signage used to draw people to the decks. Per Harris, yes, signage is placed at Tribune and 2nd Avenue, and Broad Street and 3rd Avenue.
- Promotions: Otwell gave an update on Fiddlin' Fest 2022. There are over 100 vendors, over 20 non-profits doing kids activities, and 3 food trucks confirmed. Lytle asked what blocks the festival would be placed? Per Otwell, 100 to 400 blocks of Broad Street. Quick suggested getting aerial video of the events. Otwell is going to look into this. Otwell also provided an update on upcoming holidays. Candy Crawl will be suspended this year. Instead, there will be regular trick-or-treating from 3-5pm on Halloween. There will also be no Holiday Open House this year. Instead, there will be a larger focus on Rome for the Holidays with events including trolley rides with Santa, a candy cane hunt, and a viewing of The Grinch. Lytle asked there is a greater need for porta-toilets. Per Otwell, yes and staff is already working on that. Duncan asked why there are not more public restrooms. Per Lesley, this is something that is being discussed. Due to budget and maintenance issues, it is on hold for now.

GA Main Street Training Videos – Members watched educational Main Street videos to refresh their knowledge of the board and operations of each committee. No questions were asked.

Other/Adjourn – The discussion on public restrooms brought up the issue of homelessness downtown. There is a rising concern with the homeless population downtown. DDA staff, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, are receiving an increased number of complaints. Complaints include being harassed and followed, public urination and defecation, sleeping in the decks, and tents being set up along the trails and under bridges. Per staff, the best thing to do is call police as there is an urban camping ordinance, as well as an ordinance against panhandling. Duncan suggested there be an effort to educate the public on how to best handle these situations. Lytle added that there is an increase in issues at Courtyard regarding the homeless. Parker suggested that DDA members speak at the next Public Safety committee meeting on September 20. **Quick called to adjourn at 9:30am.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Bailey