



MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday – September 6th, 2023 – 9:00AM
Downtown Development Authority
350 SE 1st Street, Delray Beach, FL

1. Call to order/Roll Call – 09:01am

Members Present: Mark Denkler, Vera Woodson, Christina Godbout, Brian Rosen, Richard Burgess, Cole Devitt, Aaron Hallyburton.

Members Absent: None.

Staff: Laura Simon, Marusca Gatto, Suzanne Boyd, Liliana Fino, BJ Sklar, Devin Dewane.

Guests: Lori J. Durante, Patty Jones, Price Patton, Judy Mollica, Jim Chard, Deborah Dowd, Christina Morrisson, Victoria DeSilvio.

2. Approval of Agenda – Wednesday September 6th, 2023

Motion by Mark Denkler, seconded by Vera Woodson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carries (7-0), by board consensus.

3. NEW Business

A. September 7th, 2023 City Commission Workshop regarding Old School Square DDA Board discussion

Ms. Laura Simon explains the DDA Board that at the September 7th, 2023 City Commission workshop the DDA will give an overview on the happenings at Old School Square, as well on the status of the current renovations, but also an overview on the DDA future goals for the Old School Square (OSS) project.

Board Member Woodson comments:

- The DDA Stepped up and took the project when no other organization stepped forward;
- The DDA has been doing a great work in activating and promoting the Old School Square grounds;
- There are some concerns regarding transparency on matters connected to the Old School Square Center for the Arts that should be clarified before an agreement moves forward for partnership between the DDA, Old School Square Center for the Arts (OSSCFA) and the City of Delray Beach;
- It is important to open up to the community the possibility of presenting their own ideas and proposals for the Crest Theatre project;
- The DDA has to review the budget of OSSCFA for the purpose of running the Crest Theatre before any decisions are made.

Board Member Rosen comments:

- If the DDA and the City move forward with a partnership with OSSCFA an agreement should be written including what the City and the DDA expectations are (such as keep the Crest Theatre building available for all the community to be able to use the venue);

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- Many residents want the OSSCFA to be able to collaborate on the OSS project;
- The DDA could sublease the Crest Theatre in the short term (as they have the knowledge of running it) and in the medium term to open up to the community through a Request For Proposal;
- Under the Agreement for OSSCFA to run the Crest Theatre building, while the DDA should still promote the events and happenings at the venue, seeing that it is part of the campus, things such as the utilities expenses and others should be taken in charge by the OSSCFA.

Board Member Denkler comments:

- Showed concerns regarding the availability of budget for the DDA to run the Crest Theatre programming once the renovations are completed;
- If the OSSCFA is to run the Crest Theatre, the City needs to update the Interlocal Agreement made with the DDA for the OSS project;
- The OSSCFA presents a solid plan for the short, medium and long term for operating, programming, management, & administration of the Crest Theatre building.

Board Member Devitt comments:

- The OSSCFA have the knowledge of operating the Crest Theatre building for many years.

Board Member Aaron Hallyburton comments:

- The DDA does not have the bandwidth for running the OSS project and the DDA mission. It needs support;
- The OSSCFA has the knowledge of running the campus.

Board Member Burgess comments:

- The DDA should focus on the DDA mission and regarding Downtown matters (entertainment, economic vitality) and also on the Clean and Safe rising concerns regarding the homeless population;
- The DDA should go in a partnership with another entity to manage the Crest Theatre building;
- There is significant knowledge from the OSSCFA (from running the OSS grounds for many years) that should be taken in consideration on a future partnership;
- It is important to give opportunity and priority to local entities in future partnerships;
- Multiple entities can be used for different partnerships.

Board Member Cristina Godbout comments:

- It is important to know what is expected by the City;
- The DDA should go in a partnership with a third party to help relief the load of work with the OSS project.

10:14am – Mr. Mark Denkler leaves the meeting.

Public Comments:

Lori J. Durante (Delray Beach, resident):

- The DDA has been a doing a great work with the Old School Square project;
- It is important to give equal opportunity to all the community to present their own ideas and proposals for the Crest Theatre building project.

Christina Morrisson (Delray Beach, resident):

- It is important to keep in mind that it takes time and effort to create and start a plan for the Crest Theatre reopening.


5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24AM through board consensus (6 - 0). Mark Denkler not present.

Respectfully submitted,
Liliana Fino



Cole Devitt, DDA Secretary



DATE