



ROME DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

October 9, 2014
Carnegie Training Room
Carnegie Building
607 Broad Street

MINUTES

Chairman McDowell declared a quorum and welcomed members to the meeting at 8:39am. He also welcomed special guests, Billy Peppers and Jessica Reynolds-Wiggins. McDowell expressed condolences to Herring as her mother recently passed away. Chair McDowell wished Alice Herring, Ann Pullen and Steve White all Happy Birthdays. Members present: Evie McNiece, Barbara Ware, Steve White, Alice Herring, Ann Pullen, Steven McDowell, and Jay Shell. Staff: Ann Arnold, Amanda Carter, Sammy Rich, and Becky Smyth. Media present: Doug Walker, Rome News Tribune, David Crowder, WRGA. September minutes were approved as submitted.

ACTION

Design Facade Grant Recommendations - 1) Pullen presented a grant request from David Tedesco for 34 East 2nd Ave. The description of the project is to replace old windows, rotten wood and window frames with a \$1,000 grant request and total project cost of \$10,000. Pullen stated "all glass will be laminated" which means a film will be on the windows and HPC did administratively approve. White motioned to approve recommendation second by Shell, all were in favor. **2)** Pullen presented a grant request from David Prusakowski for 8 E 3rd Ave. The description of the project is to replace current faded awnings with new black branded awnings with a \$1,000 grant request and a total project cost of \$10,000. Shell motioned to approve, second by White, all were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach - Ware stated that they are looking to add a new member to the committee. They went over the December award nomination forms at the last Coffee Break meeting. The next Coffee Break is hosted by the DDA here at the Carnegie building. The committee does have a 2015 tentative Coffee Break calendar. Ware would like to add verbiage to the nomination form stating the recipient must be an active member downtown.

Design - Pullen explained that several members from the Committee were appointed to a new Public Arts Committee. Members reviewed the guidelines of this committee. The committee is considering adding twinkling lights in the median trees. There were some timing/electrical issues which caused some of the median lights to be out. Shell added that he recently noticed the sprinklers running in the medians.

Promotion - Shell stated that the committee is gearing up for the Apocalyptic Block Party on Oct 25th. The Downtown Trick or Treat is Oct 31st. The first bike night have a good turnout and was the busiest Tuesday in months. He would like to see parking spaces blocked off in front of each restaurant reserved as bike parking. Arnold commented that staff could block off spaces for the October event. Shell spoke with other restaurant owners that also had a great night. He would like to build the event in preparation of a spring bike rally. Arnold added there would be a proclamation at the Commission meeting proclaiming Oct 25th as Zombie Day.

Parking - Herring stated Smyth has been conducting new business visits. There is an important parking meeting coming up on October 16th at 11:30am in the Sam King Room. This meeting was organized by Kirk Milam and is held to discuss parking plan options in the Cotton Block. Herring invited all members to attend.

Business Development - White stated the September 11th meeting at the church was well-attended with approximately 70% of property owners from the 5th Ave district. Billy Peppers from DCA facilitated the meeting and several goals were taken from the meeting. Tomorrow, October 11th, is the Business Friendly Incentives and Partnership meeting in the council chambers at City Hall.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Parking - New public parking signs will be installed in the Annex Lot to help educate the community of the available parking. Harold Studdard is a new employee in the department from Mercy Senior Care which is a program funded by the state. He will be learning new skills and serving as a downtown ambassador.

Director's Reports - Arnold stated the committee should have received the press release indicating we did receive the grant for the Desoto Theatre in the amount of \$20,000. These funds go towards the catering kitchen and concession area. White mentioned that Arnold was recognized by the DeSoto Theatre Foundation recently at an event which presented her with her own dedicated seat. Loan activity continues to be phenomenal. The Wyoming Main Street Program will take a bus tour of Rome prior to the national conference next year. Arnold put in a proposal and won. They will visit Rome, Cartersville and Greensboro.

McDowell adjourned the meeting at 9:09am and stated the Planning Session will immediately follow.
Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Carter, Recording Secretary