



## MINUTES

Vice Chair McNiece declared a quorum and welcomed members to the meeting at 8:33am in Chairman McDowell's absence. Members present: Ann Pullen, Evie McNiece, Steve White, Alice Herring, and Jay Shell. Guests: Sue Hiller and Elaine Abercrombie. Absent: Steven McDowell and Barbara Ware. Staff: Ann Arnold, Amanda Carter and Becky Smyth. Media present: Doug Walker, Rome News Tribune, David Crowder, WRGA.

## ACTION ITEMS

**November Minutes** - Minutes were approved on a motion by White, second by Shell, all in favor. .

**ULDC Recommendation** - Planning Director, Sue Hiller, presented a recommendation to approve revisions to the Central Business Commercial zoning code. Hiller stated when the zoning code was created the residential demographics were different. There is now a renewed interest of young urban professionals living downtown. Hiller outlined the proposed changes on a handout provided to the board. She explained this change would eliminate residential space on the bottom floor. Residential use on the first floor is limited to entry ways, stair wells, elevator lobbies, and storage areas not to exceed 1000 square feet per unit. Commercial store fronts shall be maintained in both form and function and shall not be converted to residential use. Hiller will present the recommendation to the planning commission in January. White motioned to approve the proposed recommendation, second by Shell. All were in favor; none opposed.

**Parking Recommendation** - Smyth presented a recommendation from the committee to charge a fee for contractor's permits. The fee was: \$25 for three days, \$50 seven days, \$125 two weeks and \$200 month. These prices are aligned with Savannah and Athens. Pullen motioned to approve the recommendation, Herring seconded. Shell voiced his concern with the charges, as they will be passed on to the business. Herring and Pullen would like the first day to be free as discussed by the committee. White motioned to amend the original motion and add the first day is free, second by Pullen. Smyth went on to explain the off-street parking charges which caused Herring to question the recommendation. As Herring, Parking Chair, was not comfortable with moving forward with the motion after further discussion, Pullen withdrew her original motion, and White withdrew his amended motion. The Parking Committee will reevaluate the recommendation.

**Vice Chair McNiece turned the meeting over to Secretary Herring as she departed to attend another meeting.**

**BID Renewal/Management Plan** - Abercrombie reviewed highlights of the 2016-2025 BID Management Plan. She pointed out that River District has been included. Members will take petitions door to door to obtain signatures. Each property owner will sign their own petition. No business will pay more than \$150 for the business license surcharge. She stated that it would be managed by the DDA. Pullen opposed the recommendation to have BID managed under the DDA and would like to see more meetings and more participation from business and property owners. Members reviewed the expenditure percentages and agreed that the committees and DDA were good stewards of the allocated funds. As Pullen questioned the allocation to reserve and management, Shell pointed out that this was reduced in the work session. Shell motioned to approve the plan as presented, second by White. Herring, White and Shell were in favor; Pullen opposed. Motion carried.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**2015 Work Plan** - Arnold reviewed the 2015 draft Work Plan and commented that very few changes were made. The Promotion Committee will add an event in the River District, the Parking Committee will reevaluate use of a visitor pass, and the Business Development Committee removed the annual bankers/realtors meeting and will focus on the River District and more downtown housing. Committee members are currently being asked if they wish to renew for another one year term. Arnold asked for feedback on the draft work plan to be submitted by next week in order to finalize for the January Annual Board meeting. Arnold passed out an example of a 2014 Action Plan sheet for each committee to fill out in order to track progress throughout the year. Members liked this idea. They will be completed in January.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Outreach** - The Awards Program will be held next Friday at the DeSoto Theatre. 2015 Coffee Break Calendar is complete.

**Design** - The Design Committee will meet on Tuesday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> as the November meeting date was during Thanksgiving.

**Promotion** - Shell is eager to add new members/workers to his committee.

**Parking** - Herring reiterated that the committee is working to move forward on several goals earlier discussed.

**Business Development** - White expressed what a great year his committee had and looks forward to next year.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

**Parking** - Smyth noted the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave deck revenue is down as was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave deck.

**Director's Reports** - The National Main Street Conference is next March and the state program of Wyoming will have a group of sixty coming to Rome and volunteers are needed. Arnold is currently working on getting one loan out and closing another. The Historic DeSoto grant is moving forward and bids will go out soon. Arnold will be out of the office during the month of January. She encouraged members to let her or McDowell know if they wish to change committees. Chairs will be appointed during the annual meeting.

There being no further business, Secretary Herring adjourned the meeting at 9:41am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Carter, Recording Secretary