

**DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY**

**City Hall at St. James  
117 West Duval St., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Lynwood Roberts Room**

*Friday, June 7, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.*

**DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS:**

Tony Allegretti, Chair

Don Harris, Committee Member

Mike Saylor, Committee Member

**Introductions**

- Riverwalk Project – Vanessa Harper
- Park Depot Project- Kathy Stark
- Risk Management and Special Event Permitting- Twane Duckworth

**Announcements**

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment**



**DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Tony Allegretti, Melody Bishop, and Mike Saylor

**Board Members Absent:** Donald Harris

**Office of General Counsel:** Jason Gabriel

**Council Members Present:** None

**Attendees: (Staff):** Eric Lindstrom, Karen Nasrallah, and Karen Underwood

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Downtown Experience Committee meeting was called to order by Chair, Tony Allegretti at 4:10 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

- Park Depot Project – Kathy Stark  
Ms. Stark presented paintings and commented that a location, such as, the two spaces located in the library lobby would provide a venue to engage, educate and encourage people to explore the incredible park. She added that the paintings would be more visible due to a well-traveled downtown front. Further, Ms. Stark gave a brief overview on the history and features of the paintings.
- Riverwalk Project – Diane Brunett and Vanessa Harper – GPS Application and Web Site  
Ms. Burnett and Ms. Harper expounded on the Riverwalk Project GPS Application and focused on the website highlighting four areas of interest – Health, Environment, History, and Art & Entertainment.
- Risk Management & Special Event Permitting, Twane Duckworth, Chief/Risk Management  
Mr. Duckworth recommended the facilitation of better communication between the City of Jacksonville, business community leaders and its residents. He provided a hand-out of the Special Events Municode Section 191.101- Section 191-120 explaining the liability and insurance procedures.
- Downtown Entrepreneurs - Margie Seaman, National Director, Commercial Real Estate Services and Michael Langton, President, Langton Associates addressed the street retail issue. According to Downtown Vision Inc. (DVI), there is a 37 % vacancy rate resulting in 74 vacant storefronts downtown. Margie Seaman and Mr. Langton are being proactive in renting the store fronts. Mr. Langton suggested utilizing some of the funds that will

eventually become available out of the \$9M for downtown improvement. Mr. Langton considered the use of \$1M for a program providing grants to new tenants, match dollar –for-dollar for capital outlay to retrofit spaces. When a new tenant goes into a space, spending \$100K or \$50K those funds would be matched for only building improvements. Twenty new store fronts could be filled with \$50K.

Ms. Bishop pointed out that the incoming CEO suggested that the funding go to the owner, not the tenant, and it would be better implementation for our downtown businesses.

Mr. Allegretti mentioned a limited amount of \$25K for building improvements. He has requested to review it with the DIA Board Member, Paul Perez. Due to the Sunshine Law, a meeting notice will have to be posted since they are planning to meet. Depending on where the DIA Board stands with the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), the amount would have to be approved by Council. As a retailer, Mr. Allegretti recognizes the benefit of this downtown program mechanism for brand new spaces.

## **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Fitness in the Plaza facilitates work-outs every Friday in Hemming Plaza during work hours from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The work-outs include two Zumba classes and a nutritional series workshop. Every second Friday is dedicated to kids from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- John Nooney advocated for downtown river access. He expressed his concern about the shipyards floating dock. Mr. Nooney commented that is the only public access from the water to the 40-acre shipyards site.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Allegretti adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview. For verbatim comments of this meeting, an audio CD is available upon request. Please contact Michelle Stephens, Office of Economic Development at (904) 630-1979 or by email at [msteph@coj.net](mailto:msteph@coj.net).

**Recorder:** *Karen Underwood*  
*Completed Friday, August 2, 2013*