City of Jacksonville February 21, 2024
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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BOARD MEETING

Proceedings held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, commencing at 2:00 p.m., Jacksonville Public/Main Library, Multipurpose Room, 303 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

JIM CITRANO, Chair.
BRAXTON GILLAM, Board Member.
SONDRA FETNER, Board Member.
JOE HASSAN, Board Member.
CAROL WORSHAM, Board Member.
PATRICK KRECHOWSKI, Board Member.
MICAH HEAVENER, Board Member.
MELINDA B. POWERS, Board Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

LORI BOYER, DIA, Chief Executive Officer.
GUY PAROLA, DIA, Operations Manager.
STEVE KELLEY, DIA, Director of Development.
JIMMY PELUSO, City Council Liaison.
INA MEZINI, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator.
TODD HIGGINBOTHAM, Parking Strategy Coordinator.
ALLAN DEVAULT, DIA, Project Manager.
SUSAN KELLY, DIA, Redevelopment Coordinator.
JOHN SAWYER, Office of General Counsel.
AVA HILL, Administrative Assistant.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Jim Citrano, board member.
 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Carol Worsham,
 board member.

BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Joe Hassan, board member.

MS. BOYER: Lori Boyer, CEO.

MR. KELLEY: Steve Kelley, DIA staff.

MR. DEVAULT: Allan DeVault, DIA staff.

MS. KELLY: Susan Kelly, DIA staff.

MR. HIGGINBOTHAM: Todd Higginbotham, DIA staff.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

For the public -- we're at public comments now, and for those of you that did attend our committee meeting last week, we actually split our public comments up, so I would -- what we're going to do for the Riverfront Plaza comments, we're going to wait and have public comment before we take up that resolution.

So, Ms. Hill, if there are any comments not relating to Riverfront Plaza, to any other of the agenda items or just general comments, I would ask that we do those now.

And then for those of you that are here to talk about the Riverfront Plaza, I will call

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PROCEEDINGS

February 21, 2024

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2:00 p.m.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon.
I'm going to call the Downtown Investment
Authority board meeting for February 21st,
2024, to order.

We're going to start with introductions, but, first, if you would join me and stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

So first we're going to, for the record, go around the room and introduce ourselves, starting with Ms. Hill, please.

MS. HILL: Ava Hill, DIA staff.

BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Patrick

Krechowski, board member.

BOARD MEMBER POWERS: Melinda B. Powers,

19 board member.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Sondra Fetner, board member.

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: Micah Heavener, board member.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Braxton Gillam,

board member.

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you up immediately before we take up that resolution.

Does that make sense?

Okay. So if we have any public comments not relating to Riverfront Plaza ...

MS. HILL: It looks like all of them are relating to Riverfront Plaza.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Except Carnell Oliver.

MS. HILL: We'll go ahead and we'll receive Carnell Oliver.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

MS. HILL: Please state your name and address for the record.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Y'all take a deep breath.

Yeah, my name is Carnell Oliver. Address is on file.

I'm here for issues dealing with the African-American community. That's my only focus. When I look in the background, I see snowflakes and one minority, but he's probably in that click of people in this community.

One of the things -- there are two things that are critically important to me right now when it comes to the African-American

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community. Number one is economic mobility,

2 clear economic mobility. Number two is 3

housing.

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Before the legislature is moving a new 4 Live Local Act through. A lot of nonprofits 5 6 are given a tax exemption where they don't have 7 to pay property taxes. Now, any of y'all with 8 these nice, fancy college degrees can come up

front, and this what I want you to do: I want 9 10 you to reach out to that individual state

representative and get a tax exemption, but 11 12 black people that want to be property owners,

build a home, they get a house, they don't pay 13 14 property taxes, period.

I'm going -- I'm going all the way back to 40 acres and a mule. If they want to live in an apartment, they don't pay no rent, they pay nothing for five years. That helps them build wealth.

I don't care about serving everybody; I care about who I am as a black person and how y'all built this system to only cater to one class of people. How many times in this room right here at DIA have you had a group of black people out here and they've actually had their

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voices heard? How many times?

Most times this room full of white folks. Y'all got the money. And the thing about it is that when a black man tells you you don't know nothing, you don't. You ain't never been black a day in your life. You don't know what it's like to be victimized by the system because your white privileged class gave you every right.

And the problem is right now is that in LaVilla -- the one thing that I know, there's going to be a lot of growth. And if any kind of commercial property happens in that corridor, them black people that want to move in that area, want to start a business, they don't pay nothing. They keep all that money. You create generational wealth by giving people clear opportunities to establish themselves.

And right now I'm speaking very clear. I'm more direct than anybody else. That's a back tax for the (inaudible) of the white community. The manipulation, extortation [sic], the exploitation of what we don't -didn't know now, but many of us know now. I know how much y'all messed up. You

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trying to keep me silent from going to City

Council meetings. A lot of y'all know what I'm

dealing with with Terrance Freeman, but you

keep your mouths shut because y'all don't want 4 5 to be black-listed.

MS. HILL: Time is up. 6

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Oliver.

8 Is that the only public comment?

9 MS. HILL: We do have two more that are

10 not for Resolution 2 [sic].

We have Ted Pappas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that related to 12

Riverfront Plaza? 13

MS. HILL: He doesn't have a subject.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pappas, if you're going to talk about Riverfront, we're going to defer 16

that until right before that resolution. 17

MR. PAPPAS: Okay.

MS. HILL: Okay. Then we have Pam

Sorenson. Subject, storage units and mixed-use 20

21 projects, Southbank.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

23 MS. HILL: Please state your name and

24 address for the record.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pam Sorenson, 1413

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Riverplace Boulevard, Unit 3701, 32207. 1

2 I'm here in response to a mixed-use

project that is being presented to get storage

on the Southbank for yet the third time. In

this new reincarnation, now the taxpayers are

going to help pay for the affordable housing 6

7 that will be hiding the fact that it is storage

8 units on the Southbank. That's completely

against the 2019 downtown development overlay. 9

10 We have been against it the first time it 11 was presented, we're against it the second time

12 it's presented. The lobbyist says that if it

is not approved this time, he'll be back yet 13

14 again, and we will be against it then.

Storage on the Southbank is not

15 acceptable. We're all for affordable housing. 16

We think that will be a vibrant addition to our 17

neighborhood. We are not for storage units. 18

19 We are for retail, and we hope both the

affordable housing and the retail are 20

21 successful. We just ask that you not make the

22 taxpayers pay for the storage units to help the

23 Simpson development do what they've been trying

to do for the past three years. 24

25 Thank you.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 Ms. Hill, any --

3 MS. HILL: That's it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Before we get into our CRA agenda, I do want to ask -- I believe a

our CRA agenda, I do want to ask -- I bene

6 representative or maybe multiple

7 representatives from JEA are here, and if they

8 would like to come up to the podium now and

9 address the board, you're welcome to do so at

10 this time.

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(Mr. Pope and Mr. Wilson approach the podium.)

MR. POPE: Is this right?

14 MS. HILL: Yes.

MR. POPE: Okay. I wasn't sure if I

16 needed to press a button.

17 Hi. Jordan Pope, JEA. Herb Wilson, JEA.

We are here to discuss, if warranted, the potential for the relocation of electric lines

at the former Landing site, Riverfront Plaza.That project has been designed and bid and

22 we're prepared to move those lines once we have

23 some further discussions to make sure that

24 those -- the proposed relocation does not

conflict with the development pad. And we are

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settled on the funding sources, including JEA's

2 participation as part of that project.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Mr. Gillam.

5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Thank you,

6 Mr. Chairman.

7 Through the Chair -- Braxton Gillam -- I

8 had a question about timing. For this -- I

9 think maybe you've been invited here today

10 because our budgeting meeting occurred earlier

11 this month and we were talking about it, when

we should be thinking about budgeting, any

13 piece we have of that as far as the cost. And,

14 of course, we will want to move the project

15 forward as soon as possible, but understanding

16 it's sort of a partnership in some respects

17 because the JEA has a big role in that.

Is that something that you see happening

19 this year or late this year, or what's your

20 timing if you could share that with us?

MR. POPE: Sure.

I think the timing can be discussed. I

23 mean -- so the project and all will take at

24 least a year, maybe a bit longer. As far as

25 commencing construction, again, I think we're

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9 **1** prepared to do that fairly soon. I mean, not

tomorrow, but, I mean, once we have some of

3 these other details worked out -- I don't -- I

think we're ready to move forward.

On the other hand, if it is a budget issue
and we need to look at starting at a certain
point in time, I don't think that's a

8 challenge.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I think we're
committed to putting the money together on our
side as soon as you tell us you are, but you

12 hate budgeting and putting money aside and

waiting for someone else who's not ready to

move forward. So I think that's the reason whywe wanted to have a -- an open dialogue with

16 the JEA about -- so we could be, you know, in

17 sync.

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MR. POPE: Yes, sir. Understood.

I think we are prepared to propose a contribution by the JEA to our board for their approval, and -- and so I think we can work

22 with your staff to look at what that split is

23 on the total cost of the project and come to a

24 resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?

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BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you,

3 gentlemen.

4 MR. POPE: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: One last item before we get 6 into the CRA agenda. There's been at least one

' article that I saw about some of the larger

projects in the CRA that have been

9 characterized as not moving forward, and I just

10 wanted our CEO to give a little bit further

11 detail about that and kind of where these

12 things stand and expand on some of the media

13 reports that have come out about it.

MS. BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So as you will recall -- some of you were on the board and some of you were new to the

board and were not here, but when both the Ford

18 on Bay site, which is the former courthouse

19 site, and the Landing -- former Landing or

20 Riverfront Plaza development pad, adjacent to

21 the Main Street Bridge, were put out to bid, we

22 did kind of widespread offerings on those. And

23 in both cases, the selection was looking for

24 something that was iconic and memorable and

25 worthy of being on the riverfront and we were
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not necessarily looking for a suburban-style 2 development.

3 So the Chair and I had a conversation a little while ago, and, I mean, there was --4 there were multiple bidders, I believe six, on 5 6 the Ford on Bay site. However, this -- the one 7 that was awarded was superior from its 8 architectural design, from its recognition of the Hardwick influence on design in downtown 9 10 and the Mid-Century Modern aspect of it, and it was a high-rise, and that density was something 11 we were supportive of. 12

So we knew it was a stretch because it was the more expensive project to build, but it was also more worthy of the riverfront. And that was what the selection committee, as a whole -not me or any one person -- chose, and was awarded the site.

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19 Where we have been on both that project 20 and the American Lions project for probably the 21 last year and a half is that, shortly after both of those were awarded is when we saw the 22 23 feds start raising interest rates and when we saw inflation take off. And, as a result, it 24 is not new news that those projects have Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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not penciled or those projects have not been 1 financially feasible on the terms that the -they were awarded, or on the terms of the bid 3 responses because a bid response has a specific 4 pro forma in it and it has a specific incentive 5 request in it. So the challenge was, they

6 7 couldn't make it work any more on those 8 numbers.

That does not mean that neither developer is -- has walked away from the table, is not interested in Jacksonville. That couldn't be further from the truth. They both remain very interested in the sites.

Mr. Kelley and I had a call with American Lions yesterday. American Lions is very interested in how they could proceed if they modified their building and made it less iconic or maybe less tall or fewer units and could reduce their cost, you know, would that still fit within the scope of the current RFP.

The answer is that, when you make any of those changes, it would require us to do a Notice of Disposition, just like we do on the Jones Brothers matter for the parking lot here. It's not a -- it does not have to be a big,

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nationally noticed, long-winded thing. It simply means that you have to give other people a fair opportunity to respond and perhaps present an alternative offer if, in fact, you are changing the terms that were presented in

the original response.

7 And that's really where both of those 8 stand. But I will say -- and I think the Daily Record mentioned this, and so for the 9 10 information of the board, I have had new potential respondents on the courthouse site, 11 two additional developers express interest in 12 the site. And I have also seen a new 13 respondent who has reached out to me with 14 interest in the Riverfront Plaza pad. So we 15 have two interested parties on that one right 16 17 now and we have three interested parties in the other one, all of whom we are in conversation 18

So I just wanted you to be aware of that in terms of the kind of general lay of the land. I would not characterize that as dead. Certainly they have been stalled for some time because of the economy, and that would require --

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Remember, we're not taking them forward to City Council without getting that return on investment of 1 for the city. So when we could get the economics right to get to a return on 4 investment of 1, which is what people are now feeling like they can get to, that's when you're seeing increased interest again.

And really the reason it's a topic of conversation now is because the tide has turned and people -- other people are looking at the sites as well. So that's really --

12 And, Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to answer any further questions if you have them, but that's 13 really the status on those two. 14

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll give any board member that wants to ask any questions or make any comments relative to that the opportunity to do so now.

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: The only thing 19 that I would add or just reiterate is that it's 20 21 not surprising that in a changing interest rate 22 environment that projects pencil out differently after they have already been

23 approved, so I don't think anybody that's 24

25 familiar with the market should be surprised

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with that.

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2 THE CHAIRMAN: The only comment I'll 3 add -- and I actually had this conversation yesterday with somebody -- a friend from the 4 5 general public. I was on the scoring

6 committee, and in my opinion, looking back on

7 the various proposals that we had, the Carter

8 design was the most fitting for that site. It

was the highest density, it fit well with 9

10 the -- and it had a more urban design. 11

(Council Member Peluso enters the proceedings.)

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And what I personally did 14 not want was a development that you can find 15 anywhere in the suburbs, and I don't think that is a good fit for downtown. 16

I did recognize -- again, speaking just for myself. Because those types of projects cost more, that brings the highest risk if the economy changes, and that's exactly what happened. And so my point to the media, to the general public is, we went into that with eyes wide open. We knew that it was a greater risk of execution if things in the economy change.

And that's very simply what happened. Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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Are the deals dead? No. Are they 1 delayed? Yes. And I think the City and the board is very committed to continue the 3 discussions with both groups or with other 4 5 groups, but ultimately we want the right product on that, on those sites. 6

And so I just felt it was necessary, given some of the press that came out in the last week or so, to give a little bit of commentary relative to those projects.

So, with that, we're going to get into our CRA agenda. We'll start the CRA agenda now, and we do have a voting conflict disclosure, if you want to go ahead and read that into the record, at least one.

MS. HILL: Pursuant to Section 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes, a Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict, filed by Board Member Jim Citrano, prior to this meeting, must be read publicly at the next meeting, after the form was filed.

22 Pursuant to that requirement, Board Member 23 Jim Citrano declared a conflict on Resolution 2024-02-03, Jones Brothers new construction, 25 for the following reasons: My employer,

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Seacoast Bank, conducts business with affiliate

companies of CLL Jones Brothers, LLC. I have

direct involvement in the management of this

business relationship. 4

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

I was told at committee, by disclosing

that, that I was able to vote on that, that 7

8 item.

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Okay. Next item is to approve the

10 January 17th CRA meeting minutes. Can I please

get a motion? 11

12 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll move to 13 approve.

14 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a

16 second.

All in favor, say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye. 18

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed? 19

20 BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The January 17th, 2024, CRA 21

22 meeting minutes pass.

23 Next item, Item C, is our consent agenda.

24 We are going to pull from the consent agenda

Item Number 3, 2024-02-01, the MOSH RDA, and

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take that up separately. 1

So on the consent agenda is -- are the two

3 resolutions, the Hyatt parking and Sally's Dark

4 Ride.

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BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I get a motion?

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll move to

8 approve the consent agenda.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Second. 9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a

11 second.

12 All in favor, please say aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The consent agenda passes. 16

17 All right. So let's go ahead and take up

Resolution 2024-02-01, MOSH RDA. 18

19 And I will turn it over to our CEO.

MS. BOYER: Mr. Chairman, I think 20

21 representatives of MOSH would like to speak.

22 But if you'd like to make a motion -- get a

23 motion and a second on the resolution on the

24 floor, that might be appropriate.

25 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve.

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City of Jacksonville February 21, 2024 Community Redevelopment Agency Uncertified Condensed Copy 23 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Second. BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor. 1 1 2 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Worsham. THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Motion and a second. 3 I will ask representatives of MOSH if they 3 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor. 4 would like to come up and speak. 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hassan. 5 5 (Dr. Dove approaches the podium.) BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor. 6 DR. DOVE: I'm Dr. Alistair Dove, I'm the 6 THE CHAIRMAN: And I, too, am in favor, so 7 CEO of MOSH, and so I'm rising to ask, 7 the amendment passes. 8 respectfully, today whether the -- the board 8 Now we will vote on the resolution as 9 would consider a minor adjustment to the 9 amended. 10 language of the resolution as it's currently 10 Mr. Hassan, how do you vote? 11 written. BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Approve. 11 12 The resolution includes several 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Worsham. BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor. 13 fund-raising goalposts for MOSH to hit during 13 14 the course of this work, and we are requesting 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam. that the first of those, which is currently 15 15 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor. scheduled for February 28th, be adjusted to THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Heavener. 16 16 17 March the 31st to allow for continued 17 BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: In favor. negotiations with a corporate donor that will THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner. 18 18 19 get us to that goalpost. It's a considerable 19 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: In favor. 20 gift and it will get us across the line, but we 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Powers. 21 just needed to allow them the -- more time for 21 BOARD MEMBER POWERS: In favor. that process to play out. THE CHAIRMAN: P.K. 22 22 23 So we are not requesting any of the 23 BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Approve. 24 subsequent fund-raising goal lines to move, the 24 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm also in favor, so the dates to move, just the first one, the 25 amended resolution passes unanimously. Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 (904) 821-0300 24 22 1 February 28th date to move to March the 31st. 1 Okay. Item B, Resolution 2024-02-03, 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Jones Brothers new construction. This was 3 3 MS. BOYER: So, Mr. Chairman, this would discussed and approved. I'm not sure why it's 4 be on Page 3 of the attached exhibit. And 4 not on consent. 5 5 MS. BOYER: So, Mr. Chairman, I asked that when -- it's subparagraph A on Page 3, and that

says by February 29th, 2024. If someone would 6 7 make a motion to change that to March 31st. 8 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll move to amend 9 Resolution 2024-02-03, Page 3, paragraph A, 10 under Fund-Raising Responsibilities, striking 11 February 29th, 2024, and inserting March 31st, 12 2024. BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Second. 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Motion and a second 14 on the amendment. So let's go ahead and vote 15 on the amendment first. 16

17 I'm going to start with P.K. 18 BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Approve. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Powers.

BOARD MEMBER POWERS: Approve. 20

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner.

22 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Approve.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Heavener.

24 BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: I approve.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.

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we remove this from consent. Ms. Fetner had pointed out to me a couple of concerns in some of the terms in the term sheet that were attached, not financial terms. So it had 9

10 nothing to do with the underwriting or the 11

incentive, but just some of the terms related 12 to the tiers analysis.

13 And as I am looking at the exhibits right now, I am not seeing the changes red-lined. 14 15 Mr. Kelley, do you know if they are

red-lined? 16

17 MR. KELLEY: (Off microphone.) 18 MS. BOYER: So I'm hearing they're 19 red-lined. So if someone can identify what page numbers the changes are on --20

21 I can tell you the substance of the pages. 22 One change related to the programming of the 23 space on the second floor patio where the

resolution identified who the partner agencies 24

25 would be for programming and had specifically

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referenced DVI, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, and

others. And we simply deleted who the partner 2

- 3 agencies are because they will participate with
- other agencies, but we didn't want to call out 4
- specific entities with whom there are no active 5
- 6 agreements about that programming or 7 activation.
- 8 The other one, I know --
 - MR. KELLEY: (Off microphone.)
- 10 MS. BOYER: Thank you.
- Mr. Kelley pointed it out, and it's on 11
- Page 4. The other one -- 24? 12
- MR. KELLEY: (Off microphone.) 13
- MS. BOYER: 24. 14
- The other one relates to historic signage. 15
- And the historic signage is typically not 16
- provided by the Jacksonville Historical 17
- Society, although they, obviously, identify 18
- 19 landmarks, but we do have a historic district,
- 20 we do have identified landmarks within the
- 21 historic district and locally designated
- landmarks. 22

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- And, in fact, you may recall that you have a project for which you have appropriated money
- to do historic markers within downtown, and we

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- have been working with the Historical Society
- on what those markers would look like, but we
- just didn't want to call out that the 3
- Historical Society was doing the markers 4
- 5 because they don't typically have funds to do
- that. So we took that reference out just to 6
- make sure they weren't -- they were not 7
- 8 incorrect references.
- Are there any others, Mr. Kelley? 9
- 10 MR. KELLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'll call your
- attention to the front page of the resolution, 11
- Page 1. There was a scrivener's error that was 12
- captured in the "whereas," underneath it. So 13
- you see this as a green line on your document. 14
- So that was just stricken. The same 15
- information is captured in the "whereas" 16
- 17 immediately below it that's correct for this
- 18 resolution.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great. 19
- So are we amending the resolution or are 20
- 21 we just noting the changes in the --
- 22 MS. BOYER: Frankly, I think you could
- 23 either amend the resolution as approved by the
- committee, since the committee approved a
- 25 different form, or you could simply move the

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resolution as presented to you here and approve 2 it this way.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I say we go with the

4 latter.

5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Yeah. I move to 6 approve Resolution 2024-02-03 as in the package 7 and published.

8 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Second.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a first and 10 a second.

I'll open it up for any questions or 11 comments. 12

Ms. Fetner. 13

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Hi.

Again, this isn't dealing with the 15

financial side, and I tend to focus on the 16

17 public activation side of things.

So one thing that I noticed was the 12-events-per-year limitation on the rooftop

20 space, and I wanted to know where that number

21 came from. I just recall from the Met Park --

we have a 12-ticket limitation per year, and 22

23 it's been quite annoying to get things done there. And I just want to make sure that that 24

number is agreed to by the applicant, and also

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we don't want to create a situation where they

- can't use activities to generate revenues for
- this -- for this project, and we don't have a
- 12-event limit on our own public parks for 4 5 events.

MR. KELLEY: Through the Chair to 6

Ms. Fetner, I would request Billy Zeits to come 7

up to speak to that, please, as a

representative of the developer. 9

10 MS. BOYER: Ms. Fetner, I'll add on behalf 11 of DIA, there is no desire on our part to limit

the number of events. So perhaps it is a 12

limitation on their committing to a minimum of 13

that number of events, but we'll let them 14

speak. 15

16

(Mr. Zeits approaches the podium.)

17 MR. ZEITS: Good afternoon.

18 Billy Zeits, 1000 South Riverside Avenue,

Jacksonville, Florida. 19 20

Through the Chair to the board, we're 21 open-minded to having more private events. The

22 intent of that facility was for us to be able

to activate it as its highest and best use 23

possible and seek partnerships in the 24

community. 25

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So not having a limit, having a minimum, 1 2 either one of those is -- is acceptable to us 3 and -- however the board decides. A minimum of 4 12 sounds great.

5 MS. BOYER: So I'm looking at the 6 provision now that Ms. Fetner is referring to, 7 and the concept here was that this facility is supposed to be open to the public and usable by 8 patrons of the Emerald Trail. So the 9 10 limitation on the number of private events, when they could lease it to someone and exclude 11 the public, was probably intentional in the sense that you wanted the facility to be open 13

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to the public.

Now, whether 12 is the right number -totally open to a different number if you think we should amend that and change that number, but we do want the facility to be primarily open to the public and not just to the tenants of the building.

20 21 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Through the Chair, I don't want to throw out an arbitrary number. 22 23 That's -- I think we want to encourage these

types of projects where we're having, you know, privately owned public spaces. They are a

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great addition to a vibrant downtown, but at the same time I don't want to confuse it for a private event. You want to make them open to 3 the public and welcoming. 4

So maybe if it was something like 12 -- up to -- we could do something like 12 private events, and then be able to work with the DIA.

Again, I think we could be more flexible. I don't know if we need to put it in writing or we could say something like the majority of the times it's open to the public ...

MS. BOYER: Would you suggest something like it will be limited to 12 private events unless otherwise approved by the DIA or the Parks Department? I mean, that gives you the flexibility to have more.

17 MR. ZEITS: Yeah, I think our -- our team 18 would be amenable to that.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: I think that's a 19 good idea. If it comes out later down the road 20 21 that they need more opportunities, they could 22 always come back, correct?

MS. BOYER: If you would like to offer 23 24 that as an amendment --

25 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Yes.

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I move to amend the resolution to state 1

that -- let me find it on the page -- the

private events will be limited to 12 -- 12

events per year with the option to seek

approval for more from DIA and the City Parks 5 6 Department.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll second that. 7

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we have a motion 9

and a second to amend the resolution.

10 Any more discussion on the amendment 11 itself?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.) 12

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then let's go ahead

14 and vote on the amendment. P.K., how do you vote? 15

BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Approve. 16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Powers.

BOARD MEMBER POWERS: In favor. 18

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner.

20 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: In favor.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Heavener.

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: In favor. 22

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.

24 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Worsham.

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1 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hassan. 2

3 BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I, too, am in favor, so 4

the amendment passes unanimously. 5

6 Now we will vote on the amended 7 resolution.

8 Mr. Hassan.

BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor. 9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Worsham.

11 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Heavener. 14

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: In favor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner. 16

17 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: In favor.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Powers.

BOARD MEMBER POWERS: In favor. 19

THE CHAIRMAN: P.K. 20

21 BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Approve.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: And I, too, am in favor, so

23 the amendment -- Resolution 2024-02-03 passes

24 unanimously.

25 Okay. So before we take up Resolution

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2024-02-02, I am going to now open up public 2

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comment specifically for this resolution.

Again, for those of you that were at the committee, our bylaws state we give the general public three minutes to speak. Given the number of folks here to express their opinion, we're going to have to just keep a hard line on three minutes.

We ask, first, that you state your name and address for the record and then do your best to be efficient and stay within the three-minute time period.

MS. HILL: Okay. We'll start with JoAnn Tredennick.

> (Audience member approaches the podium.) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.

17 JoAnn Tredennick, 1206 Hubbard Street, 32206. 18

I would like to comment on the -specifically on the restaurant aspect of this resolution, and then more generally on what I would hope that our City government and DIA would be focusing on for downtown revitalization.

First of all, restaurants are risky. I've Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

buildings. 1

> Also, it's important to have great streetscapes and great, safe, clean places where people want to live, where they want to work, and where they want to visit, and that is something that is uniquely the purview of government. Private enterprise cannot do these things. Private enterprise can open restaurants and small businesses. Private enterprise cannot create and maintain public parks and public open spaces.

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12 So I really encourage the DIA and, of course, the City to focus on that as an 13 14 appropriate role for government in revitalizing our downtown. It's been a slow process. Maybe 15 we've been focused on the wrong thing, so let's 16 17 look forward and focus on the right things.

Thank you very much. 18

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

20 MS. HILL: Next is Joe Porter.

21 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.

23 Joe Porter, 2858 Riverside Avenue.

In view of the number of people here and 24

25 that since I have written each of you several

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expressed this in a letter to all of you. My

husband, Jack Meeks, and I own restaurant space

in historic Springfield. National statistics 3

tell us that 60 percent of restaurants fail 4

5 within the first year. It's a tough business.

And it's also a business uniquely suited to 6

7 entrepreneurs and private enterprise, and I

8 don't know that government is particularly

suited to being in the restaurant business, and 9

10 I would adamantly discourage using taxpayer

11 resources to be in the restaurant business

12 generally, anywhere, let alone in a floodplain.

In terms of downtown revitalization, I've lived in the Urban Core for 20 years, and what will encourage more people to want to live and stay in the Urban Core is a high quality of life for residents, and what will inspire businesses to invest in quality investments is a high quality of life. What's needed for

We have a great shortage of open spaces and parks downtown. We have an opportunity

23 here to have a great park in a great location.

I encourage you to not miss this opportunity.

25 Don't clutter it up with brick and mortar

that? Parks, open space.

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times, I thought I'd just limit my comments to one or two sentences.

3 What I would ask is that you -- given the lack of consensus around this project, the 4

restaurant, please defer your vote until 5

Perkins & Will can present site plan options 6

7

that include more public input.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Porter. 9

MS. HILL: Next is Sherry Magill.

11 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sherry Magill, 3339 Oak 12

Street, 32205, District 7. 13

Thank you, Mr. Peluso, for being here.

15 So much about this restaurant proposal is puzzling. If this development pad was always 16

17 to be a brick and mortar restaurant, why did

18 Perkins & Will win a competition showing a

playground? Why was that design promoted 19

widely to a public which embraced it and now 20

21 loves it? Where's the due diligence,

22 financials, operating costs, maintenance costs,

23 insurance costs?

24 As you discussed, Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago, numerous downtown developments, 25

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including American Lions, have "fizzled," as 2 the Daily Record called it. Why doesn't the 3 fizzling of the American Lions cause you to

take a deep step back, take a deep breath, step 4

back and rethink your plans for the former 5 6 Landing site?

Are we so determined to show that we've done something good and historic downtown that we will have a public entity designed, built, owned, operate [sic] and maintained in perpetuity, a brick and mortar building?

At what point did DIA decide to be in the restaurant management business? Why are a children's playground, a beer garden, a cafe, a splash pad, shade trees, and native plants so undervalued? Why are they not enough to show that we've done something meaningful in historic downtown? And does anyone honestly believe that this water's edge restaurant will save historic downtown? Two bad meals and you're done.

Don't be fooled by the public's initial enthusiasm for the Landing. A hundred thousand people turned out for its opening. And, by the way, I ate there many, many times in my 27

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years working downtown. I never had a bad meal; Italian, Japanese, Tex-Mex, American

Cafe, Silver Spoon. So what happened to it? What harm is done by your deferring this

vote today on this resolution, not 5

indefinitely, for two meetings, two months, 6

bringing back Perkins & Will? And if you do 7

8 vote "yes" today, you have to ask yourself,

what possibly could go wrong? 9 10

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Magill.

MS. HILL: Next is Blair, and I believe

it's Woolverton. 13

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pass. She's going to 14 15 pass.

MS. HILL: Then Rick Pariani.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Rick Pariani, 1534

Avondale Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205. 19

I had the pleasure of sending you letters 20

on February 9th, February 21st. I hope that 21 you had the opportunity to read those letters. 22

If you did, you'll know why I am a part of

what's been referred to as the "small, vocal 25 opposition."

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This is just the public speaking to you on 1 behalf of the big picture. You're going to

hear a lot about the elements, the ingredients,

the programming. I fear that you're on the verge of losing the forest for the trees.

You know, the park space has been referred to by the Chamber in support of your initiatives as a massive riverfront park. It's a gem. It's a pearl. It's a very small space in the context of our urban central city.

In the '80s, a mistake was made, I would submit. It should have been a park. When the Landing was demolished, it should have been a park. Never in any of our lifetimes do two wrongs make a right.

I can't use enough time to really share with you my concerns that I outlined in the two letters. So, in summary, I would ask you today to give serious consideration to deferring your vote on the restaurant at its river's edge location. I would ask that you consider moving it and combining it with the cafe at the northwest corner of the site. I would ask you to eliminate the development parcel in the northeast corner of the site.

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You have lots of other opportunities to realize that type of mid-rise, high-rise,

multiuse development. It does not have to be 3

inside the park space. 4

And I would ask you to really attend to the big picture. Look at the scale and

particularly the context, the history, heritage

and tradition of our core downtown area from

James Weldon Johnson Park down Laura Street 9

10 promenade to this gem of a riverfront open

11 space and civic space, the likes of which has

never been realized in downtown Jacksonville. 12

And it is -- it relates to Friendship Park 13 directly across the river. Right through the 14 middle of the heart of -- of our downtown, we 15 have an opportunity to link spaces, civic

16 spaces, and -- and accommodate flexible use --17

MS. HILL: Your time is up.

MR. PARIANI: Thank you.

20 Please just take time and do the right 21 thing.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. PARIANI: Thank you.

MS. HILL: Next is Melissa Ross. 24

25 (Ms. Ross approaches the podium.)

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MS. ROSS: Good afternoon. 1

2 Thanks for having me.

3 Just wanted to relay to the body here that

the mayor's office is working to better 4

accommodate the public's desire for input into 5

6 future projects. We are arranging a series of

facilitated community engagement discussions on

8 riverfront projects starting March 6th, here in

the library. 9

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We'll have more info to share as we go along, but I just wanted the group to understand, along with the public, that we have heard from the public on this matter and we want to make sure that we're responding to community concerns regarding the riverfront, which is so important to us all.

We'll have more info to share shortly, but the first meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 6th, here at the library.

20 Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 21

MS. HILL: Next is Anne Coglianese.

23 (Ms. Coglianese approaches the podium.)

MS. COGLIANESE: Hi, everyone. 24

My name is Ann Coglianese. I'm the City's

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chief resilience officer.

And I have to say, it's been really exciting the last several weeks how many times

I've heard people talking about resilience 4

around this project, and I -- I did want to 5

just take a couple of moments to -- to speak to 6

my evaluation of the site and the many 7

8 conversations that have happened with DIA

already. 9

> I do think it's fundamentally important and good that the public is asking questions about how their public dollars are going to be spent and the outcome of that and the -- the resilience of any project proposal on the riverfront.

I wanted to make sure this is expressively clear that the restaurant along the riverfront, everything that's going on in downtown Jacksonville along the riverfront is being

19 designed in line with the City's resilient 20

21 strategy. We even have an action in the

22 resilient strategy about downtown specifically.

23 It's action 22.3, and it speaks to the need for

us to design things differently for our

25 high-risk areas, not to halt any sort of

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development along the riverfront, but be aware

of the unique conditions that we find,

especially on the main channel of the St. Johns

River. That's where we have some of our, you

know, fastest moving water and deepest water.

And as we saw during Irma, there can be impacts 7

if the site isn't developed properly for that

8 type of flood risk.

What I can say is that over the last two years my office has worked closely with DIA on this -- this parcel and this site, and there's been a lot of conversations about the building, and I did want to clarify that we are -- that is being built 2 feet above what is required by regulation, and that's with both storm surge and sea level rise in mind.

We're looking at material selection and in active conversations about how we make sure -if this is a site that -- if it retains water, it can be easily cleaned up in the -- and move on as business as usual in the -- the days and weeks after a storm event as opposed to something like what we saw during Irma where the recovery process lingered.

There's also, I think, for -- for any Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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development of this site, a need to really

think about how the site is managed long-term.

So if this is a restaurant, it may be such that

we're rolling tables and chairs out in the days

before a hurricane. But the good news is, we

have -- we have a heads-up when hurricanes 6 7 come.

8 What I think has been missing from the conversation, and I do want to make sure gets 9 added, is that the entire site is also going 10 11 through a resilience design review. The bulkheads are being built a foot higher than in 12 the past and with the adaptive capacity to 13 build an additional 2 feet in the future as sea 14 level rise conditions change. 15

And wave attenuation features have been discussed and planned throughout the site. It's just as important that we slow the force

of waves against a restaurant as it is a 19

sculpture, as it is a playground. So there's 20

21 been active and ongoing conversations with DIA

22 and is something that's actively being

23 addressed not just for this one development pad but for the entire site. 24

25 And -- and I think, just in general, this Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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speaks to the ethos that, you know, we want

- people around our riverfront, we want to bring 2
- 3 people down there. There's a lot of ways that
- can happen, but for all of it -- whether it's a
- park, whether it's a restaurant, or whether 5
- 6 it's a different type of development, the City
- is going to be working closely with the 7
- 8 resilience office and DIA. We all work
- together to make sure that these decisions are 9
- 10 designed comprehensively.
- 11 So those are my thoughts. Thank you.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 12
- MS. HILL: Next is Mike Zaffaroni. 13
- 14 (Audience member approaches the podium.)
- AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. 15

My name is Mike Zaffaroni, and I'm at 8178 16

San Jose Boulevard. 17

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I am here today representing the Jax Chamber and the board's resolution to support the restaurant and the Riverfront Plaza as the chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

So redevelopment of downtown has long been a priority of the Jax Chamber, and we believe strongly in it today, as we have over the course of time, but we believe that the

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restaurant is consistent with the long-term plan for the park.

It's nice to hear that the mayor's office is soliciting additional input from the public, but this has been a part of the park plan for sometime now.

But I think, most importantly, we believe 7 8 that by giving people more options of things to do in the park and around the park, we're going 9

10 to end up having a better park and do a better job of activating the park. And so while the 11

- city of Jacksonville has over 400 parks 12
- currently, we really believe that this is an 13 opportunity for this to become one of the best 14
- parks in the entire city and that -- that a 15
- restaurant/dining option is an important part 16
- of that. 17
- 18 Thank you.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 19
- MS. HILL: Next we have Wayne Wood. 20
- 21 (Audience member approaches the podium.)
- 22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi.
- 23 I'm Wayne Wood, 2821 Riverside Avenue.
- And I urge you to defer your decision 24
- today on the riverfront park. 25

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Perkins & Will is an internationally known designer of parks and public spaces, and their

original design got universal buy-in throughout

the city of Jacksonville, had no riverfront 4

park, so essentially -- it had no riverfront restaurant. So, essentially, by placing a

restaurant on the riverfront, you're altering 8 their design.

I'll also mention that -- with the changes potentially in the American Lions project, that can totally also change the park. So I think we need to step back and see how this relates.

Major construction in a public park should not be in the park but at the edge of the park. Great parks all over the country have restaurants near the park and at the edge of the park, but not in the park, obscuring the public view when they're in the park from enjoying the river views.

The park will open up an access along Laura Street to the river that we've not had when the Landing was in existence. Laura Street is our new Main Street. It is truly the access of activity downtown from City Hall to the library, the art museum, Hemming -- James

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Weldon Johnson Park, and so the activity along that park is going to lead people to come to

our riverfront park. 3

At the retail committee meeting last week, 4 it was said that a restaurant on the riverfront

would help activate the park. Just the 6

opposite is true. People are going to come to 7

this restaurant because they're going to come

to the park from the Laura Street side. 9

10 Downtown residents, visitors will come mostly 11

from downtown through Laura Street. And a restaurant at the back of the park, away from

12 the riverfront, would actually accommodate that 13

better. And with that, the restaurant would do 14 15

better activated there.

The riverfront park is going to be 16 17 activated by people coming through the park, to the park to enjoy the riverfront, and having 18 commercial entities in the park to obscure the 19 views of the river goes against the whole 20 21 purpose of a public park.

22 So I urge you to vote to defer, put it 23 off. Let's get Perkins & Will back here to advise us how best to activate the park with 24

25 the changes that we now have in front of us to Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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encounter the potential resiliency issues, to 2 get the whole public buy-in.

3 And, of course, you know, this public -this park is going to be there for a long time. 4

A restaurant may not last a long time. We've 5 6 seen other City-owned buildings, like Snyder

7 Memorial Church --

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MS. HILL: Your time is up.

MR. WOOD: Thank you very much.

10 I urge you to defer this vote today.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Wood.

MS. HILL: Next is A.J. Alenduff. 12

(Audience member approaches the podium.) 13

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.

So I'm A.J. with Get Outdoors Fitness. We 15

live at 1339 River Hills Court. 16

We live on the river. We live on

Pottsburg Creek, my wife and I. We own a 18

business. It's a power sports promotion 19

business. We have a couple of paddling clubs 20

21 in town. We have an outrigger canoe club. We have -- we spot a dragon boat. Duval Dragons 22

23 were coming to town.

We're a Chamber member, so we're here supporting the restaurant. We think the more

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we can do on the water the better. We think a

restaurant would be good on the riverfront

there. We think activating the river is a 3

great idea. I would encourage more paddle 4

sports, canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, 5

surf skis, outrigger canoes. 6

So the racing shells, like rowing and even 7

8 dragon boats, are more flat water. We need

that over in the Arlington River and Pottsburg 9

10 Creek, where I live. But we have a really

11 unique river here, the St. Johns. And the

12 craft that I spoke of, the paddle sports, they

can take those bumps that this river provides. 13

And the north winds we get this time of year coming down Long Branch sets, you know, 5-

or 6-foot waves, and these -- these canoes can 16

handle that. And we have competitions. So on 17

March 10th, we have the Pottsburg Distance 18

Classic we're promoting. It's one way. We're 19

promoting the waterways here in Jacksonville, 20

21 and we're for anything that we could do to

22 activate that. It's Sunday, March 10th, it's

23 the Pottsburg Distance Classic, and

24 GetOutdoorsFitness.net, and we're for the

25 restaurant.

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Thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 2

3 MS. HILL: Next is Natalie Rosenberg.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello there.

Natalie Rosenberg, 1871 Montgomery Place,

Riverfront Parks Now Steering Committee.

8 Last week, we requested that the DIA defer 9 the restaurant and take a holistic view of the

10 park, maximize the investment in the

already-planned restaurants, and implement 11

popular interim social space activations. 12

Just a few notes. After last week's 13 committee meeting -- first, RPN is in no way 14

advocating for a grass lawn only at Riverfront 15

Plaza. We applaud the Perkins & Will plan, 16 17 which includes a cafe and a beer garden with

plenty of indoor seating. We simply 18

19 recommended prioritizing those restaurants.

20 They are great options and we don't understand

21 why there [sic] aren't more a part of the

22 conversation.

23 We do appreciate the DIA suggesting that

24 the public be permitted to participate in the

design process for a stand-alone restaurant, if

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it passes, and we believe that further

consideration should be given to shifting the

placement of this desired restaurant. Notably,

no one has expressed why this particular

location is necessarily the best location. We

think nearby locations ought to be considered 6

because, firstly, we believe that new portions 7

of the Riverwalk should be much wider than the

current Riverwalk, hopefully allowing for 9

10 multiple paths, multiple rows of trees.

In addition to wanting restaurants, the public clearly expressed a desire to exercise on the river and enjoy nature, so the width of

14 the Riverwalk needs to be considered.

Second, every attempt needs to be made to keep obstructions caused by the structure to a

17 minimum. We have several other nearby 18 locations to suggest that -- we would hope

would help protect the views of the river and 19

the newly renovated Friendship Fountain. 20

21 In light of American Lions stalling, we 22 recommend getting a stakeholder group to work

23 quickly with Perkins & Will to adjust the plan

in an effort to get the whole park built as 24

25 soon as possible.

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Two of the mayor's transition committees recommended a stakeholder group to help oversee the design of the riverfront, and we believe

this restaurant issue highlights the need for 4 5 such a group.

Without American Lions, a redesign of the eastern park side is already required to separate the park from the tower, so let's get this newly discovered JEA work done, get the beer garden restaurant and civic steps built, temporarily activate the development pad while the City determines the next steps for that

pad. Let's do everything in our power to avoid having half park, half construction zone for the indefinite future. It does not matter how nice this desired restaurant is. If it is next to a dirty construction staging area, it will not be very appealing, and that's not setting the cafe or the proposed restaurant up for success.

If we all work together from a shared vision, grounded in the duPont principles, we'll end up with a spectacular riverfront to complement our spectacular river. Let's do it

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need events, and most importantly you need food 2 and beverage.

3 I had dinner last night with friends from 4 Miami. Three of them came up. We ate at

Bellwether, one of downtown's few dinner spots. 5

A great spot, but we need more options. Their comments were that they have eaten there every

single time that they've come to Jacksonville and that downtown looked dead. And I know you 9

10 guys have heard that before, so more options is what we need. 11

We need an opportunity for citizen engagement with downtown and for citizen engagement with the riverfront.

Please support the Riverfront Plaza 15 16 restaurant.

Thank you.

18 MS. HILL: Next is Trisha Meili.

19 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi.

21 I'm Trisha Meili, and I live at 2358

Riverside Avenue, 32204. 22

23 I've lived in Jacksonville since 2009.

24 And just like our mayor has expressed, I love

25 this city. I also care deeply about its future

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right and fast. 1

Thank you. 2

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MS. HILL: Next is Scott Kennelly. 4

5 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi there.

Scott Kennelly, 1021 Saratoga Drive,

8 32207.

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I'm here to speak as a member of the Jax 9 10 Chamber Government Affairs Committee. I'm also one of the founders of Manifest Distilling, 11

12 which is a craft distillery located in the sports complex. 13

Our distillery decided to locate downtown eight years ago because we wanted to be part of the downtown activation. You guys have been working hard, we've made progress, but, frankly, it's been -- it's been slow, and we're excited to have more ideas for more things to happen downtown.

We're in favor of the plans for the park buildout, but we've also learned that you have to have -- you have to give people a compelling reason to come somewhere. Having a cool space just isn't enough. You need activities, you

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and appreciate all the work all of you do to

make residents feel proud of living here, so

I'm saddened that what we're dealing with now

has become so contentious.

I am frequently in downtown Jacksonville 5 for work, pleasure, and exercise. I am very 6

familiar with Riverfront Plaza as I frequently 7

8 bike along the Riverwalk from Riverside to the

Jaguars' stadium. 9

10 I'm excited about the opportunity this 11 city has in Mayor Deegan's words from the 2023 12 Great Cities Symposium to create a vibrant riverfront park system so the public has easy 13 14 access to our beautiful river.

15 The symposium's keynote speaker, A.G. Lafley, who has successfully developed park 16 17 space in Cincinnati and in Saratoga -- or

18 rather, Sarasota, sorry, here in Florida. He inspired attendees at this conference, saying 19

how important it was for Jacksonville to have a 20

downtown made remarkable by creating a vibrant

22 riverfront park system so the public has easy

23 access to our beautiful river.

24 And City Council President, Ron Salem, who 25 was also there, endorsed having a dynamic and

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accessible downtown riverfront park system in

his welcoming remarks. I believe this starts 2

3 with Riverfront Plaza, with an unobstructed view to our beautiful St. Johns River. 4

We all want Jacksonville to be great -- to 5 6

be a great and thriving city, a city admired around not just the state, but the country and the world.

As is often mentioned, the St. Johns River is Jacksonville's most important asset. Also admired is that Jacksonville has the largest City park system in the entire country, and the two meet at Riverfront Plaza. Riverfront Plaza is a precious opportunity to effectively highlight these assets, Jacksonville's park space and the St. Johns River.

I think the water's edge restaurant in the plaza will diminish the value of Riverfront Plaza by blocking the view of the river, reducing the green open space, and going against, honestly, the words of the mayor, council president, and A.G. Lafley.

23 I urge all of you to really listen --

MS. HILL: Your time is up.

MS. MEILI: -- to what's been said and

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financially successful. 1 I would urge a bigger study, bigger 2

picture of what the supply and the demand --

getting that support, I think is a challenging

which worked, is to put parks for the public

perimeter of the parks, not in the parks.

funding and use private enterprise around the

there are several large commercial buildings with lobbies that are empty. Before we spend

money and put in more restaurants, let's help

the restaurants that are already downtown and

the buildings that are already empty and see if

I've served on a bank board. I was on a

the issues you're hearing might be a by-product

lend you count the number of prospective people

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that can buy or rent. And the more you build,

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we can't make those buildings and restaurant

owners and those complexes have a better

loan committee. I can tell you that some of

of your success. When you build enough residential units, the banks that are going to

the harder it is for the next one to be

The City of Tampa's concept is to put --

At the particular one we're talking about

question that warrants more of the DIA's

consideration.

opportunity.

based on what you already have in place, and I think that explains some recent funding issues

that have occurred with some of the bigger 6

7 ones.

8 You also have the stadium with a billion-dollar topic. You've got the City, 9

you've got the mayor having a March meeting. 10

11 Give us an opportunity, for those who want to support the concept of restaurants serving the

12 park, to present the case for not having the 13

restaurant in the park. If you approve this, 14

vou can't unring the bell. 15

Thank you for your time.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Harrell.

MS. HILL: Next is Jim Schwarz.

(Audience member approaches the podium.) 19

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. 20

Jim Schwarz. Address is 2358 Riverside 21

Avenue, 32204. 22

23 First of all, I want to thank you for your work on this board. Smart, successful 24

25 development downtown is essential for our city,

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vote against it.

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Thank you. 2

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 3

MS. HILL: Next is William Harrell. 4

5 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is William Harrell. I reside at 6740 Epping Forest Way 7

8 North, Jacksonville.

First, I want to thank y'all for what you 9 10 do. It's kind of you to sit and listen to these remarks. I know it consumes a lot of 11 your time and can be frustrating, but we thank 12

you for putting up with it. 13

The big question in my -- that I'm trying to ask you is to defer this resolution pending an opportunity to take advantage of the public's desire to find other solutions to the needs for restaurants serving public -- public

18 19 parks. If you put the restaurant in the park, the 20

needling with trash, with the food service is not really compatible with what many of us think a public park ought to be.

To have the DIA, City of Jacksonville, financially supporting more restaurants when

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the taxpayers who own restaurants are not

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and I want a thriving downtown Jacksonville, and I know all of you all do as well. 2

3 I request that DIA postpone the vote on the Riverfront Plaza restaurant and first focus 4 on developing a new strategy for smart and 5 6 successful downtown development. And, by the 7 way, setting a strategy is a key board 8 responsibility.

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My reason for suggesting this is much has changed downtown and the current DIA strategy does not appear to be working. Some examples I'll offer:

Number one, the Downtown Vision 2023 13 14 stated that roughly \$8 billion in projects were in the works for downtown. I originally was 15 going to say with the demise, but now I will 16 say, with the lack of feasibility of the 17 American Lions, River City Brewing site, Laura 18 19 Street Trio, and the Hardwick and others, we 20 have lost nearly half of that \$8 billion. This 21 is a huge shift. And if that doesn't cause you to say we need to pause and rethink what we're 22 23 doing, I don't know what would.

Number two, finance and costs for developers are higher. This will impact what

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developers can and will propose for downtown.

Let's reexamine our strategy and be clear about what we want rather than just accepting what they propose to us.

Number three, the office space market has changed. Downtown Vision 2023 showed that, compared to other Florida cities,

8 Jacksonville's market -- or vacancy was higher and our rent prices were lower. Clearly, 9 10

what's been going on is not working.

There's going to continue to be pressure on office space. That's another reason to relook at what we're doing and what the strategy of this agency is.

Number four, the downtown residential market has changed for the better. What people -- when residential desirability -- when you think about residential desirability for downtown Jacksonville, that requires amenities, like parks and retail events and culture.

People who have spoken here, including staff, have said the public wants restaurants. Well, duPont did a study. They talked to 3,200 people and the question was asked, what do you think should be the main priority for the

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riverfront? The top response: Cultural

activities, 34 percent. Second was

recreational, 23 percent. Third was passive,

which included parks and greenspace, that was 20 percent. Restaurants did not make the top 5

five.

7 So there was another study. DuPont asked

the water taxi passengers, what are the

priorities for spaces along the riverfront? 10 Restaurants was not in the top six.

Greenspace, recreation, exercise areas, all 11

12 were there and restaurants was not.

MS. HILL: Your time is up. 13

MR. SCHWARZ: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Schwarz. 15

MS. HILL: Next is Mincy Pollock. 16

17 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon. 18

19 Mincy Pollock, 1225 West Beaver Street.

20 I'm here today as a member of Government 21 Affairs for the Jax Chamber in support of the

restaurant. 22

23 You know, oftentimes I'm talking to friends and they -- I'm always bragging about 24

25 my city. I'm always saying that Jacksonville

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is the Promised Land. I got friends in Atlanta

and D.C., and they were once living here, and

they always go, "Man, you're out of your mind.

We're not going to get together to come to

Jacksonville. Get out here." I keep saying, "This is the land of opportunity. This is 6

just" -- "you're missing it. We're one of the 7 8

fastest growing" --

Needless to say, I lose the battle and I 9 have to go to Atlanta, I got to go to D.C., but 10 11 I recently -- one of them reached out to me and they were like, "I just read something. You 12 guys did something in transportation. What am 13 I hearing about" -- "this thing about the 14

stadium?" 15 And so here is what I see as an 16

opportunity that continues to make us that Promised Land. We've got great parks, but sometimes people travel for the great restaurant. They might happen to be at that park.

I think this gives us a great opportunity to continue to stand and give other people reasons to come to -- make Jacksonville a destination place, a place to stay, a place to

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explore. And there's nothing like enjoying a good meal and looking at a beautiful landscape 2 3 and our waterways.

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One of the things that we do in the Jax Chamber with the Government Affairs is -- we're just not making this up. We take time to go to other cities with downtown business and -- and trips. And what we learned is that success leaves clues.

And what we're finding in some of the cities -- and based on studies, is -- they're saying, if you've got great assets, like a restaurant within your park, you're going to attract folks that may be in the suburban areas that want to come -- you're giving them a reason to -- to want to be there. Success leaves clues.

Earlier, the resiliency director was speaking and saying that this has been analyzed, and when the restaurant builds, it's going to be an extra 2 feet and an extra this. I think sometimes we miss the opportunities to realize that people will also come here to see how we've had victories in other areas, like resiliency.

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1 So this is a great opportunity, opportunity, opportunity to be that Promised Land for Jacksonville. And with the 3 Jax Chamber and Government Affairs, I support 4 5 the riverfront restaurant. Thank you. Appreciate you listening.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 7

8 MS. HILL: Next is Nancy Powell.

(Audience member approaches the podium.) 9

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi.

Nancy Powell, 1848 Challen Avenue, 11 12 Jacksonville, 32205.

And I am here speaking as an individual, 13 not any organization. 14

I want to talk about the Street Sense social space proposals from the January workshops. They directly relate to this issue of a holistic view of this important core downtown public space. I'm concerned that

19 their great interim recommendations are not 20

21 getting the attention they should get as a

22 highly effective improvement, activation

23 strategy.

24 As you know, there is already a permanent 25 beer garden restaurant planned for Phase 2 of

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the Perkins & Will park. This is part of the original plan, it was well-received, and still

part of the plan.

The construction drawings show a 4,600-square-foot restaurant overlooking the river, serving at least 150 people, indoors, outdoors. It's a restaurant.

8 And beer gardens are highly attractive 9 public spaces, whether they are permanent or 10 interim solutions, like the ones that Street Sense recommended. 11

In Tampa, there's a beer garden in the 12 Sparkman Wharf riverfront space, which, if 13 you've been there -- and if you haven't, you 14 should -- it's a simple, activated space with 15 lawn games, a small stage, large TV screen, 16 17 lots of tables and chairs.

In Savannah, there's a beer garden along the new part of the Riverwalk. But even if you don't like beer gardens, why are we building it? There are other concepts that could fit the permanent space or the temporary space that could be tested to see what Jacksonville people want.

This approach would need an operator and Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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some investment. It's a design space. The

benefits would be that it would allow for

family- and dog-friendly spaces, complementing

Phase 1 of the park that people can enjoy and

test out additional retail, art, or food

concepts. These were all explained by 6

Street Sense very smartly. 7

8 Bringing Perkins & Will back to assess these concepts for the interim, as well as 9

10 other ideas, would be well worth our time. 11 I appreciate Melissa Ross and Donna --

12 Mayor Deegan's offer to start holding some public forums. I think that will go a long way 13

because there are alternatives that we can 14

explore, and so we can use this park on not --15 you know, in the near term, when Phase 1 opens, 16

17 the whole park should be usable, and I think

18 it's possible.

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Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Nancy.

MS. HILL: That's it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Pappas, did you 22 23 want to speak?

24 (Audience member approaches the podium.) 25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ted Pappas, 1807

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Elizabeth Place, Jacksonville, Florida.

2 I've changed my presentation that I was 3 going to give because so many things I was going to say have already been said. 4

5 I'm an architect, and over the last 6 50 years I have designed probably several dozen

7 restaurants. One of the smartest

8 restauranteurs that I worked for was B.J.

9 Strickland. Some of you might remember the

10 name, Strickland's Mayport restaurant,

Strickland's Town House, and he had the formula 11

12 for a successful restaurant. He even told me

that he was down in Orlando and he noticed a 13

14 real fantastic restaurant with a lot of

activity. And he said, "Did you know they pipe 15

in the sound of (indecipherable) clapping just 16

17 to make it sound busy?"

18 So the idea of a restaurant, a successful 19 restaurant, is the environment and a special 20 kind of environment.

21 If you go to my neighborhood, which is 22 Avondale, there's a small shopping center there

23 about two blocks long and there are ten

restaurants, and people have to wait to get in. 24

And if you can get in, you have to wait still

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When I was growing up in Jacksonville, the

3 busiest street in the evening was Forsyth

Street. Forsyth Street -- and Jacksonville, at 4

5 that time, was basically a fifth of the size of

what it is now. Forsyth Street had a quality 6

7 of life. There were at least six, seven

8 theaters along Forsyth Street, over five

9 blocks. They had marquises with these lights,

10 like the Florida Theatre, those of you who are

11 familiar with that, but it was -- all of the

12 street was lit up with these blinking lights.

That was the characteristic. And the older I 13

14 get, the more I understand it's the quality of

15 the environment that makes a good dining

16 experience.

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further.

So I was going to start my presentation and say that Laura Street is the most important

19 street downtown. And why is it? Because,

20 historically, there was a cluster of certain

21 buildings, decisions were made.

22 To give you an idea, Jacksonville has its

23 City Hall on Laura Street. It has the City

Hall Annex and the federal courthouse, cultural

25 center, main library, Museum of Modern Art, the

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1 Chamblin's bookstore.

2 Historic buildings, we have a methodist

church, vacant. Three other buildings that are

vacant. The JEA, which is vacant. There's

5 commercial office buildings, the Bank of

America. I --6

7 MS. HILL: Your time is up.

8 MR. PAPPAS: Time is up? Is that it?

MS. HILL: (Nods head.)

10 MR. PAPPAS: Okay. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Pappas.

12 Does that conclude public comment?

MS. HILL: Yes, that's it. 13

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we have a

15 resolution, 2024-02-02. I do want to get into

16 comments and questions, but do we have, first,

17 a motion -- our CEO looks like she --

18 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Motion to approve.

19 BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: Second.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a

21 second.

MS. BOYER: May I just clarify the motion

23 and the resolution before you?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MS. BOYER: Just to be clear, at the REPD

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Committee, Ms. Fetner made two amendments. And

so the motion you have before you and in your book has those two amendments as paragraph --

Section 3 and 4 on Page 2, and I assume that's

5 what the motion was on, is on the amended

6 resolution.

7 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: So to be clear, the

one motion that was approved by the committee

and submitted to the board, that's the motion 9

10 that's here before us now and that's the

11 motion -- that was the resolution that we're

12 moving forward on, not on the new one?

MS. BOYER: Correct. So it is this one 13

14 that was approved in REPD with this language. 15

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Four to one.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it was actually

17 three to one because Joe was not voting.

18 Okay. We have a motion and a second on

the resolution. Several of us were at 19

committee and contributed to the conversation. 20

21 P.K. was not. So let's go ahead and get your

22 thoughts and questions and comments.

BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: I don't suppose

24 I'll thank you for picking me to go first.

25 I'm actually very excited about this.

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Like many in the room, I've been involved,

2 either directly or peripherally, for 15 years

in workshops, charettes, open-door meetings, 3

closed-door meetings, discussions over beers, 4 5 gnashing of teeth.

I think this is a great addition to a larger park. I think it's going to have its own great river views. It's going to bring its own -- its own contribution to this larger area.

For ten years, I've been looking out my office window and watching either demolition or stagnation on this space and I'm excited for this part of the larger park. I don't think it's going to take over the park, I don't think it's going to ruin the park. And specifically this decision is a step in the process.

I think that what Lori and her staff and this board are charged with doing are public/private partnerships. That's what this is. There is going to be more public input, there's going to be more discussion, there's going to be more gnashing of teeth, but I'm fully in support of this step at this time for this particular use in this particular area of

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of this and really bring the public in to the fold. And I'm really excited about the mayor's

suggestion or -- or promise to have those public meetings begin. 4

And I didn't want to -- I guess last -- at 5 the committee meeting, I had my amendment, and 6 7 then I kept thinking about this, this issue,

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and I still had some more questions that I 8

think could help alleviate some of these 9 10 concerns about the DIA getting into the

business of running restaurants. And I don't 11

12 believe that's what we are doing. I think we're acting as a developer in building a shell 13

14 and looking for an operator. 15 So one of the things I was wondering was

if we had any due diligence on what this means 16 for the DIA in terms of investment. I know 17 we're talking about building a restaurant or 18 building this shell, but what does that look 19 20 like moving forward? Do we have confidence

21 that there's an operator who can get a loan to do the rest of the buildout? 22

23 I just don't want to move forward without

knowing what the next steps are. And I think we have the time or at least we could move this

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the larger park. 1

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Ms. Powers.

BOARD MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, 4

5 Mr. Chair.

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I just wanted to say that I appreciate everyone coming out to give their feedback. I do think that having the public involved would be helpful at this stage with a lot of the different opinions that we have in the room, so I'm totally in favor of giving Perkins & Will another opportunity to come back and speak to the public and let them have some dialogue.

So that's all I'm going to say about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: I want to thank the 16 public again for all their insight and 17

commentary. I think it's really helpful and 18

19 it's crucial that we, as a board, move -- as we

move forward, we hear from the public on the 20 21 front end and not on the back end of things.

It's really important to have that buy-in and 22

23 to have that -- those champions at home

supporting downtown, so we have to look at that

25 and maybe we could do better next time on some

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resolution forward with the designer and those

types of things, but I don't want this vote to

mean that we're not going to look into those 3

due diligence topics. 4

5 Really, we have a lot of investments and incentives and things like that, that we can't 6 7 just focus on restaurants, and I think that's where people are getting concerned, is that

there are a lot of restaurants in our -- on our 9

path moving forward, and with the projects that 10

11 are on pause or are being delayed, I just -- I

12 get nervous, so --

Those are -- I mean, we don't -- we didn't 13 14 really get a chance to discuss this as a board back and forth, so I'd love to hear from my 15 fellow board members what their feelings are on 16 17 that as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 Mr. Heavener.

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: Yeah, so I've 20 21 enjoyed getting to meet a number of people,

22 just to hear different perspectives on this.

23 And I've learned a ton through the process.

24 I think all of us -- everybody that I've 25 met with is deeply committed to trying to

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create a high quality of life and activated 2 downtown. I think everybody is coming from the

3 same perspective, that that's what the want is.

There's just differences of opinion on how you 4 5 achieve that.

My biggest concern right now with where we are is that we -- we haven't activated downtown. And I view this not as a solve all problems, you build this restaurant, it's going to activate all of downtown, but the more we can do on things like this and create reasons for people to come downtown, it expands the people that are going to come into downtown and ultimately support it, which I think is -- is really important for the -- for the ongoing success of it.

The other thing that really came to mind as I was thinking through this is, I am very much in agreement that, typically, you would have private ownership and let them take the risk. The challenge with this is we created a monopoly on the riverfront and the government has all of the land, so how can somebody actually create a riverfront restaurant in any of this land that we have? Which is why we

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need, I think, a solution without getting back into the same debacle that we were with the Landing and then ending up in some kind 20-year feud over what can happen with it.

So the -- the benefit of this, to me, is that we can contain -- or maintain some kind of control over that property and ensure that, you know, the long-term viability of it is a success for the city and an integral part of the downtown.

So those were some of the reasons -- I did learn a lot, and I -- I am absolutely committed to continuing the conversation that I had with many of you on some of the ideas around the setbacks on the river and things like that and different trees and -- and shade. I think those are all critical issues.

And, to me, another big reason that I'm in support of this is accessibility. It is blazing hot, as everybody knows here, for six months out of the year. And by not having some climate-controlled space for people that aren't in the best health to be able to come and actually enjoy the river, I don't know how accessible we're making that to people.

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So those were some of the reasons that I 1 kind of took the position -- I'm in support of

3 the restaurant, so ... 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.

5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 6

7 I know many of you who've spoken today and 8 many more of you who have written, you know, to 9 us on the board. And I do appreciate the time 10 and commitment and the comments and concerns, you know, some of you expressed. 11

I would say that, you know, I do think reasonable people can disagree, and I think that's what we see here. I mean, there's people in favor of restaurants and people not in favor of this particular restaurant.

I'll give you the reasons why I'm in support of it and why I would submit to my fellow board members why you should support the current resolution.

One is -- and this one kind of bothers me. If any of this is controversial, to me, this is the controversial, you know, point, and what I would respond to the community about is the suggestion that there's not been an open

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process. And Ms. Fetner alluded to that, about doing a better job.

Let me say this: This board and this body 3 and its subcommittees meets four to six times a month for multiple hours, and we have for at least the eight years that I've been on this 6 board. We meet all the time, and all those 7 meetings are open and all those meeting give an opportunity to provide -- for the public to 9 10 speak. Some of you come all the time, and I

appreciate it. 12 Ms. Powell, I see you here, and you're always here and to support your positions, and 13 14 I appreciate that, I really do.

And some of you I see for the first time, and so I -- for those of you I see for the first time, I really want you to hear me, that we do -- we do have a process, and we talk about these things. And what do we talk about?

We talk about, for instance, a lot of times, 20

21 entitlements. I mean, we are the Downtown 22 Investment Authority and we're a taxing

23 authority. We can use tax dollars to help

24 development, encourage development downtown. 25

So, you know, part of that process is a Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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1 development plan. And the suggestion that we

- 2 don't have a plan, we've not negotiated, talked
- 3 about and involved the public in a plan -- you
- 4 know, one of the things we've -- we have
- 5 focused on most recently is restaurants and
- 6 entertainment because we made promises to
- 7 people years ago, if you will build residential
- 8 downtown and help us return the public and
- 9 people living downtown back downtown, we will
- 10 follow that with supporting programs to
- 11 encourage retail and entertainment, to provide
- **12** service and opportunities for you. We made
- 13 that promise to people and we made -- we made
- 14 it not only orally, we also put it in our plan.
- 15 We put together programs and incentives to

16 support those people.

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And here's what we've told new developers:

You want to come and develop downtown, you want

19 to develop on the river, you're going to have

20 to have restaurants and bars and public

21 engagement opportunities in your private

buildings. So we're requiring that of private

23 developers who come downtown.

I think the point that Mr. Heavener made

is right in the (indecipherable). I mean,
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people keep saying, you know, we have this great opportunity. It is a great opportunity.

3 We do have a monopoly on the riverfront.

4 Historically, I've been a little bit critical

of that because, you know, we have all this --

6 what I think is to be high-performing,

7 tax-yielding, you know, properties is in

government hands, it's not being effectively

9 used to create a (indecipherable), it's just a

10 liability. That's what it seems like to me.

And so, you know, we've got this plan to

12 kind of do better. And that plan is to

13 maintain a system and a consistent stream of

14 public access and parks along the river, but

15 also provide opportunity for others to engage

16 because I think some people want restaurants.

17 Some people don't, I understand that, but some

18 people do. But we have promised some people

19 who have already made an investment and moved

20 downtown we would do that for them. And I

21 think we have that commitment and we need to

22 follow through with it.

There was a concern about due diligence

24 about restaurants. Let me give you one

25 example. This is not the first time the City

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1 of Jacksonville has engaged in owning property,

2 building a shell, and then leasing it on a

3 short-term basis, regular basis to a

4 restauranteur. We do it on the Northside.

5 Palms Fish Camp on the Northside is another

6 opportunity, which has been very successful.

7 It's one of the -- by the way, one of the few

8 remaining places on the river inside

9 Jacksonville that you can actually pull up a

10 boat and have a meal or sit on the dock and

11 have a meal outside. One of the few

12 opportunities. We have none downtown, zero.

But that is an opportunity where the City has done this and has been successful. And the

15 City is not in the active business of selling

16 hamburgers. The City built, owned property,

17 maintained and kept the property, so it kept

18 the long-term control over it, which I'm in

the long-term control over it, which I in in

19 favor of for this park, but leased the space

20 out to someone who can operate, who's -- who is

21 prepared and ready to spend their time, effort,

22 and money investing in a business and operating

23 it. But we kept the control, as opposed to

24 losing the control, like we have in some other

25 opportunities.

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1 I think we have done due diligence. I 2 think we have been successful in this kind of

3 opportunity, and I'm in support of this -- this

4 resolution for those reasons.

Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Ms. Worsham.

7 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Thank you.

8 First of all, again, thank you for the

9 public input. I read all the emails and I

10 appreciate what everyone has contributed.

11 And I think the first thing I would like

12 to point out -- and some of the other board

13 members have -- is that we do have a plan, and

14 it's a plan that has been worked on through the

15 community over the last several years. The

16 work that's been accomplished through

17 Riverfront Parks Now, the duPont Foundation,

18 the whole waterfront activation studies,

19 there's been a continual effort over the last

20 several years, and it's really done a great

21 job, and I --

I hate the fact that we're focused on one dot of nodal activity along the Northbank

24 Riverwalk. If you look at what's happened over

25 the last several years for the plan, for the

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happened.

entire Northbank Riverwalk, it's amazing. It's

- 2 a wonderful transformation of what had been
- 3 several development parcels, and to now large
- public spaces that meander along the Riverwalk 4
- 5 from Metropolitan Park, through the Four
- 6 Seasons, through MOSH, through what was and may
- 7 still well be Ford on Bay, through the Hyatt,
- 8 down to Riverfront Plaza, through the music
- 9 park, by the Times-Union, across the Corkscrew,
- 10 down to One Riverside where there will be, you
- know, more activity there, but what has 11
- 12 happened is that there are --

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13 The Riverwalk itself is continually being 14 improved, and the public spaces, as you merge 15 on and off the Riverwalk, onto private 16 development, is actually creating more riverfront space than we've ever had. 17

So I want to say congratulations to all the community groups and the board and the City for recognizing the opportunity, and

- 20
- 21 particularly for some of the creative ways that
- we took a development site and it's become the 22
- 23 Four Seasons, which was a park site, and
- successfully negotiated the transfer of that to 24
- a wonderful space, the Shipyards, which is

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in and being so passionate about what's

happening with this area because it is very

with the right concept. So we're moving

forward. I'm in favor of moving forward. I do

went through concept, and I think this is -- as

things are constructed and things move from

morphed, but I think we should move forward

input and I'm excited to see what we could do

to make this food and beverage opportunity an asset to the park and an asset to downtown

people who do want to come down and sit in a

park and enjoy the view, a beverage, whatever

BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Thank you.

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I also want to thank the public for coming

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it is. I think we can get it right and I think

opportunity. And I'm excited about public

Jacksonville and an asset to all of those

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

And I know that that has -- the plan has

not believe we should pause the Riverfront

Plaza park design. The park went through

public input, it went through selection, it

concept to final design, yes, change has

with this, I think we've got a great

3 critical to the city and to downtown

we'll do that with public input.

Mr. Hassan.

Jacksonville. 4

5 I am in favor of moving forward because of the changes that were made at committee and 6 7 because of the public involvement and the plan

8 not being finalized because I do think it's

important and I think it is an opportunity --9

10 and it's an opportunity that one -- only one

11 operator will be able to take advantage of as

12 an owner/operator of the restaurant.

And I don't think it's going to be a 13 14 matter of will we have people that want to come take advantage of this opportunity. I think 15

16 it's going to be a matter of how many are going

17 to want it and which one will we select to best

serve the level of quality that we think that 18 19 this project deserves.

20 That being said, you know, I don't think

21 there's any intention -- I think it's a

22 misconception that the City is trying to get in

- 23 the restaurant business, and this has already been said. That would not make sense. But it 24
- 25 makes a lot of sense that they can control the

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going to be another great downtown park.

2 So the focus on this one node on the riverfront I think is -- it's unfortunate,

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because what we need is a balance of activities 4

along the riverfront. And I think that this 5

resolution marries in with the mayor's proposal 6

7 to have public input. As a matter of fact, at

8 our board meeting last week, that -- this whole

design is now open to the public, and I think 9

10 that we could -- we would be remiss if we

11 didn't move forward with this resolution and

12 look at the details and designs and scale.

It's about scale and design and detail of what 13 14 happens on that piece of property.

And I think that -- you know, yes, we've all got differences of opinion. One of the first things I heard from the public and people I know when I came on the board, or even on DDRB, is where are our opportunities along the river to engage in food and beverage and walk on the Riverwalk and stop and have a cup of

22 coffee or a beer or dinner or whatever it is? 23 But I think that we need to move forward with this resolution and we could achieve the

right scale and design with public input and

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real estate that is going to be in this park to 2 make sure it's maintained properly and it's of 3 the level of quality that we expect.

You know, I have found in the many things 4 that I have been involved in sometimes the best 5 6 decision you can make is no decision at all 7 because time and involvement takes care of it. 8 And I think it's very wise that we are just slowing down the process and not stopping it to 9 10 make sure that it's a combination and an involvement of the public and this board to 11 12 ensure that the end product is something that we're all going to be proud of. 13

So I am in favor of moving forward.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 15

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I'm going to do what I did at the committee. I'm going to give my comments. Before I do that, I do want to recognize Council Member Peluso. I will give you the last word on these comments.

And I also wanted to say -- I've been on the board for four years -- your involvement in not only our board meetings, but you come to most of our committee meetings too. It's greatly appreciated.

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I also recognize --

COUNCIL MEMBER PELUSO: I have a lot of 2 3 free time.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- Brittany Norris from the 4 5 mayor's office, who has always -- also consistently comes to our meetings, so thank 6 7 you very much. It's really important to staff 8 and the board to have both the City Council and the mayor's office representing them, so thank 9 10 vou.

So I am opposed. I am -- in general, agree with the various issues that have been expressed by the public. And not withstanding the resiliency officer's comments, I think resiliency is an issue. I think putting a freestanding structure right on the riverfront, from a view standpoint, is an issue. It's going to be expensive, and we don't know if we are going to have an ongoing obligation to supplement or support an operator, at least for some period of time -- to be determined, but

23 So all of those issues -- the first time I saw the site plan, just from a gut reaction, it 25 didn't make sense. My bigger issue is, I think

that's something to consider.

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this is the wrong portion of the site to put an 2 enclosed structure.

3 And, you know, I am all in favor of food and beverage. That was part of the original 4 5 design. They have two food and beverage locations on the original plan. If those two 6 7 components are not sufficient, then the design team should get back and tell us how it can be, how can we get a full-service restaurant where 9 10 that cafe is.

11 But it makes no logical sense to me why we 12 would need a third structure, and really a third structure in that spot. That's the 13 14 absolute, from just a straight real estate site planning standpoint, from my opinion, the wrong 15 portion of this site to put any kind of 16 17 enclosed structure. That's why I have a problem with it. 18

I do not mind being the sole opposition. I just don't think that it's the -- the right location. And, you know, I wish Perkins & Will were on the line right now so that they could, you know, weigh in on the site plan that they most recently have come up with, but I just don't think it's a good site plan.

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So I'll leave it at that and turn it over 1 to Councilman Peluso. 2

COUNCIL MEMBER PELUSO: Thank you, Chair. 3 Thank you for the kind words earlier, both to 4

myself and the -- and to Ms. Norris. 5

I will tell you that I come to a lot of these because it's important to me. Downtown is incredibly important to me. It's one of the reasons why I moved back home after serving overseas and serving abroad for so many years in the Navy. Jacksonville has more potential than anywhere else I've ever lived, and I'm sure everybody at this table knows that and agrees.

This site's incredibly important. You wouldn't see this many people showing up in the middle of the day on -- on a Wednesday unless otherwise. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention, most of them are my constituents, so I better make the right move here.

21 I want to kind of echo some of the 22 comments that Ms. Fetner made. I do kind of 23 agree that the process here probably isn't the way it should have been done. Perkins & Will 24 25 should have been more involved. There should

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have been an advisory or a stakeholder group,

2 as was recommended by two of the transition 3 committees.

4 Individuals who are experts in their

5 field, we should have had CRO, we should have

6 had our City arborist, we should have had a

7 landscape architect, we should have had members

8 of the public or folks who -- who work for the

City of Jacksonville who are in that expert 9

10 field, with a few members of the public as

well, and with a lot of public input, be able 11

12 to provide more assistance when it comes to

this park, and -- and I voiced that concern in 13

14 the mayor's office as well.

I hope that we do have an advisory body to

work on all other future parks and future 16

parcels that have not been fully developed. I 17

18 heard, you know, a few board members mention,

hey, we've got the Shipyards West, we've got 19

20 Metro Park, we've got some of the parks over in

21 the district areas as well that -- that we need

help with. And we should have an advisory 22

23 body, again, that sticks around for many years,

hopefully with this administration, that's 24

going to help provide the input that I think is

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1 necessary.

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I don't know if you're going to defer today. If you do defer, I do hope that you

3 bring Perkins & Will back to work with members 4

5 of the community to -- to discuss some of the

6 concerns.

7 I don't know if a restaurant is right or 8 wrong there. I, personally, don't necessarily

have a problem with a restaurant, but the 9

10 problem is that it was just kind of decided

upon and there wasn't, you know, necessarily 11

12 public input, and we didn't really get the

commentary we probably should have on this, 13

right? 14 15

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I mean, I don't know if it'd be

successful. I bet that it probably could, but

I don't know. And with putting a restaurant

there, what does that mean for the cafe and for 18

19 the beer garden? Does one go away? I don't

know. I'm not the expert on this deal, but I 20

21 would have liked to have heard more from the

22 Perkins & Will team and the consultants.

But, you know, this -- this is your time,

and I appreciate you giving me the comments

25 [sic] to speak. I appreciate everyone being

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1 here today.

2 Thank you so much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Anybody else?

5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Call the guestion.

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THE CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)

7 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Call the question.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: So we have a motion and a

9 second.

10 Any further comments?

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Through the Chair,

12 if this resolution passes, will the question of

the operator and the lease and all of that come 13

14 back to the board? I guess that's a guestion

15 for Ms. Boyer.

16 MS. BOYER: Through the Chair to

17 Ms. Fetner, yes.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Through the Chair, 18

19 one more question, Ms. Boyer.

I notice in a lot of public spaces that

21 have these restaurants, at some point the

restaurants become profitable and they are able 22

23 to dedicate the revenue, the net revenue of

that restaurant directly to that specific park. 24

Is that something that can be done in this

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MS. BOYER: Absolutely.

3 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Is that something we

would have to decide now or can we make sure 4

that's part of the operational lease discussion

in the future? 6

situation?

7 MS. BOYER: I don't think you would decide

it now, but I do think at the point in time we

9 bring you a proposal for a lease and particular

10 operator -- but prior to -- you would have to

11 decide it then.

12 But prior to that time, we would bring you

options for operators or options, as indicated 13

14 here, for operating parameters. So you would

15 see it then, and then you would see it

subsequently when we were bringing you an 16

17 actual lease with someone. And if that was one

18 of the requirements in that, that should be

19 contained in the lease.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Boyer, to follow up on

22 that, from a process standpoint, we're going to

23 go through -- we're going to, A, RFP for an

24 architect, correct?

> MS. BOYER: There is an RFP on the street Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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City of Jacksonville February 21, 2024
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99 1 right now that is open. 1 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hassan. 2 THE CHAIRMAN: So we're going to select an 2 BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor. 3 architect, then we're going to go through a 3 THE CHAIRMAN: And I am opposed. 4 design and costing exercise, correct? 4 So seven to one in favor. The resolution 5 MS. BOYER: So prior to there being any 5 passes. 6 commencement of design on this particular 6 Okay. We'll close out the CRA portion of 7 facility, this resolution contemplates that 7 the meeting and open up the DIA agenda. 8 there would be a public outreach meeting, a 8 (The foregoing proceedings were adjourned 9 9 community workshop meeting where the public at 3:39 p.m.) 10 could weigh in on design criteria, on the 10 concept of what they want to see in the design. 11 11 12 So before you get to any costing exercise, 12 13 before you get to any design that you could 13 14 cost, you would have that public outreach 14 15 meeting and the public involvement on it, then 15 16 the architect would go to work and come up with 16 17 some concept designs. And I would anticipate 17 18 that ultimately you're going to be coming back 18 19 to the board for a decision on direction at 19 20 that point. That's not typically the thing --20 21 kind of thing the staff makes, and that would 21 22 include what various building options cost. 22 23 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So this is -- in 23 24 short, this is -- we are going to see this 24 25 multiple times going forward before a shovel 25 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 (904) 821-0300 100 98 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 1 goes in the ground? 2 MS. BOYER: Correct. 2 3 But the point of the resolution at this 4 stage was, before we spend any money on it, if STATE OF FLORIDA) 5 the board's position was you don't want a 6 COUNTY OF DUVAL) restaurant there at all, please say so, because 4 5 7 then there's no reason to spend a dollar on it 6 8 or engage anyone. If you want us to keep I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional 7 9 working through the process, then that's what Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did 10 we'll do. 9 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 10 that the transcript is a true and complete record of my 12 Based on the comments, it appears that the 11 stenographic notes. board wants to move forward, so let me go ahead 13 12 13 14 and call for a vote, starting with P.K. 14 15 BOARD MEMBER KRECHOWSKI: Approve. 15 DATED this 2nd day of March 2024. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Powers. 16 17 BOARD MEMBER POWERS: In favor. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Fetner. 18 18 19 BOARD MEMBER FETNER: In favor. Diane M. Tropia 19 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Heavener. Florida Professional Reporter 20 21 BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: In favor. 21 22 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam. 22 23 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor. 23 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Worsham. 24 25 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor. 25 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 (904) 821-0300

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

Proceedings held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, commencing at 3:39 p.m., Jacksonville Public/Main Library, Multipurpose Room, 303 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

JIM CITRANO, Chair.
BRAXTON GILLAM, Board Member.
SONDRA FETNER, Board Member.
JOE HASSAN, Board Member.
CAROL WORSHAM, Board Member.
PATRICK KRECHOWSKI, Board Member.
MICAH HEAVENER, Board Member.
MELINDA B. POWERS, Board Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

LORI BOYER, DIA, Chief Executive Officer.
GUY PAROLA, DIA, Operations Manager.
STEVE KELLEY, DIA, Director of Development.
JIMMY PELUSO, City Council Liaison.
INA MEZINI, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator.
TODD HIGGINBOTHAM, Parking Strategy Coordinator.
ALLAN DEVAULT, DIA, Project Manager.
SUSAN KELLY, DIA, Redevelopment Coordinator.
JOHN SAWYER, Office of General Counsel.
AVA HILL, Administrative Assistant.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second.

Just for the record, I did file a Form 8 [sic], so I am going to vote on this.

All in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The consent agenda passes.

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Resolution 2024-02-07, which is the parking code updates, are we going to talk about that?

MS. BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yes. So this was supported unanimously in committee and would normally have been on consent; however, again, Ms. Fetner, during the committee meeting, brought up a couple of questions regarding some language that gave us more flexibility.

And we went back through, and what we are suggesting to you and presenting to you today is the version of the exhibits with the Code amendments that are highlighted in yellow. So the highlights in yellow are the only changes.

And what this all relates to was the fact
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PROCEEDINGS

February 21, 2024

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3:39 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll close out the CRA portion of the meeting and open up the DIA agenda.

And we're going to start with the January 17th meeting minutes.

Can I get a motion, please?

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll move to

approve the minutes.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion and a

second.

Questions, comments?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: None.

All in favor, say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition? BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting minutes pass.

We have one item on the consent agenda,

23 which is Resolution 2024-02-06.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve.

BOARD MEMBER HEAVENER: Second.

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that when we were allowing the -- some of them were scrivener's, but the real substantive ones are, when we're allowing the ability to have flexible rates or dynamic rates and to charge on weekends, we were cleaning up some other language where you set the time allowed in a zone and the rates allowed in a zone to make sure that it gave us the flexibility to have different rates at different times or different time periods.

For example, for a Jaguars' game, we mentioned you might have eight hours on a Sunday. So if it's normally a two-hour zone, but it might become an eight-hour zone on Sunday -- so what we're trying to do in these couple of places is just a few word adjustments to tweak that. It may not be perfect yet; however, the resolution says "substantially in the form of the amendment shown," and I think the Office of General Counsel will get it to where it needs to be.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion.

Can I get a second?

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5 BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Second. 1 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Motion and a second. 3 Does anyone have any questions or comments on this? 4 5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: One comment. 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam has a comment. 7 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I just wanted to 8 thank Ms. Fetner for taking Mr. Gibbs' role, making sure we keep all of our Is dotted and Ts 9 10 crossed because it's such an important part of the job. 11

12 Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER FETNER: (Inaudible.) 13 14

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Instead of doing -asking for individual votes, all in favor,

please say aye. 16

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BOARD MEMBERS: Aye. 17

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition? 18

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Resolution 2024-02-07

21 passes unanimously.

Now we're on 2024-02-05, which is the 22 23 Chapter 656 Ordinance Code changes.

MS. BOYER: And I'm going to defer to 24

25 Mr. Parola as to why this one is here and not

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on consent. 1

MS. KELLY: So I'm going to --

3 MS. BOYER: Or Ms. Kelly.

MS. KELLY: -- take this for Guy. 4

5 So this is not on consent because at SIC, staff had worked with Ms. Fetner to come up 6

with revised language. 7

So just a quick heads-up for those that were not at SIC, this is -- this resolution,

2024-02-05, pertains to Ordinance 2023-039, 10

11 which amends the Downtown Zoning Overlay.

12 So back -- last year, the DIA and DDRB had identified some review efficiencies as part of 13

the mayor's Economic Development Transition 14

Committee. Both DIA and DDRB, in October, 15

wanted to move forward with some of those 16

17 efficiencies, and so this ordinance is a result

of those recommended changes. So if you all 18

approve it, then it heads to City Council for 19

final approval and adoption. 20

So, basically, the legislation just

clarifies and streamlines some of the various

review processes of DDRB. I'm happy to answer

any questions about those, but I'm going to

25 skip over that for right now.

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The other -- so it also -- it would exempt 1

historic structures from conceptual review, but

would require them to come in for final review

after they receive a Certificate of 4

Appropriateness from Historic. 5

It revises the deviation section, again, 6

just to sort of streamline the process.

8 And then with regards to the amendment,

9 the original legislation specified that capital

10 projects, including but not limited to

streetscape projects, lane elimination projects 11

and similar, would only need to go to a design 12

review by DDRB if they don't require a 13

deviation. So they don't need to go -- to be 14

like a final approval by DDRB. 15

DDRB suggested that this wasn't really 16 specific enough and they wanted more clarity.

17 So at SIC, staff had worked with Ms. Fetner, 18

19 because she used to be in OGC, and we came up

20 with some language, which should be Exhibit B

21 in your package. And it just clarifies it.

22 So this -- it is the same language that you all saw at SIC, but because there was an 23

amendment, it is not on consent, so --24

And I'm happy to take any questions.

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BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve as 1

2 amended.

3 BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion and a 4 5 second.

6 Are there any questions or comments on

7 this resolution? 8

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. All in favor, please 9

10 say aye.

13

11 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Resolution 2024-02-05

passes unanimously. 15

Okay. I'm going to let the CEO give her 16

17 report. Let me just kind of insert the

Chairman's report first and just make a 18

comment. 19

This kind of dovetails on the conversation 20

21 that we started the meeting about relative to

22 the two projects that ended up in the press

23 this week. It was conveyed that they are dead.

Those are -- technically, they're not dead; 24

they are stalled. And, in my opinion, a lot of 25

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the projects that have stalled are due to 2 forces that this agency, the City of

Jacksonville, doesn't control.

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A lot of these issues are not unique to our downtown or the city. This is a national issue. Inflation, high debt costs, capital markets that have literally been frozen for the last year, those are the issues that have impacted those two specific projects that were in the news, and so I --

We kind of talked a little bit about this. 11 You know, the government can't solve all of the 12 world's problems. This agency is here to 13 14 provide incentives to private developers and businesses to come and invest in our downtown. 15 If there are forces beyond our control, we do 16 17 what we have to do with it. We have to react to it. And I think that our staff has done a 18 19 wonderful job going all the way back to 2012 20 when this agency was established.

And I would say for the public, if anybody is now listening, if you listen to the CEO's report and really focus on the volume and the value of both the private infrastructure projects that are occurring today -- I'm sorry,

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the public infrastructure projects that are occurring today, and the prior deals that are in production right now, on the whole I think we're doing very well, and so I --

You know, I get a little defensive. I know some of us that have been on the board for a while get a little defensive when we get blamed for things. And I don't mind taking blame if we screw something up, I really don't. But in a lot of cases, there are just things

And so I just wanted to set that up for our CEO's report. And I would encourage any of the public that is here and really focuses in on the -- the velocity of these projects that are in motion right now, I think it's quite impressive, not withstanding the challenges

that we just don't control and can't control.

that we've had as of late.

So I'll turn it over to you. MS. BOYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we have a slide show, as we have in the past, with project updates. And we're going to start through that.

So, Ms. Hill, do you want to go to the 24 25 first slide?

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(Board Member Gillam exits the 1 2 proceedings.)

3 MS. HILL: (Complies.)

4 MS. BOYER: There we go. I see it on the 5 screen.

Okay. First is Home2 Suites.

7 So let me just say, globally, kind of in response to the chairman's comments just a 8

moment ago, I think the challenge that we, as a 9 10 board, have, and we, as an agency, have, is

when you look at high-profile, very expensive 11

12 projects, single projects, those are very

bright, shiny objects that -- the renderings 13

14 make a lot of news and garner a lot of

conversation. Those are the riskier projects, 15

but to the board chair's point, I also don't 16

17 think you accept something mediocre when you're

looking at those valuable pieces of property, 18 19

and so we know what we're getting into in 20 there.

But in the meantime, we work really hard on singles and doubles. And what you're going to see here are a lot of singles and doubles and at least one of the mega-projects that is underway and actually under construction.

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And I think that it's really an inaccurate 1 representation if you think that nothing is happening or if you don't think these are 3 meaningful to the overall picture because they

are. When people talk about changing strategy,

I don't think these change your strategy from 6 looking at the demand -- we have not had a 7

problem with demand for residential, even

putting more product in the market. 9

Now, perhaps the rents haven't escalated as much as they would have had you had a tighter supply, but that doesn't solve our growing demand and growing population to tighten the supply just to force rents up. So 14 from our perspective, continuing to add supply 15 is a really important strategy of what we are doing from a residential standpoint. Supporting that supply with retail and activation is part of it.

And, furthermore, the idea of backfilling commercial vacancy, it's a challenge now. So we've talked about residential-to-office conversions; we held a seminar on it. There are other ways and perhaps there are other 24 incentives that we could look at to help

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backfill commercial vacancy.

2 But, again, to the chair's point, this is 3 not Jacksonville, this is not a Jacksonville issue; this is a national issue and an 4 international issue as a result of changing 5 6 work cultures and the idea of people downsizing 7 the amount of office space.

8 So here are some that are underway, now that we have the slide show. Home2 Suites, 9 10 which is the hotel product over on Park Street, in Brooklyn. As you can see, they're now 11 starting to work on the surface parking lot 12 behind the building and are completely on the 13 interior of the building and finish. And we're 14 15 expecting this one to be finished in a few 16 months.

Next. Maybe. Is it hard to advance? There you go. It's just slow on the computer,

Artist Walk, which is a public project over in Brooklyn, under the Fuller Warren Bridge. You can see significant progress is being made on the skate park, the elements there. And so that work continues and that is slated to be finished in late spring.

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One Riverside. One Riverside had a 2 3 topping out ceremony about three weeks ago or four weeks ago, so they are fully topped out

4

5 now, and you can see that all of those units

are under construction. The garage was 6

complete sometime ago, but they are now getting

8 down to the point where it's all interior work

and rooftop work. 9

10 Next.

11 Johnson Commons, which is not on the 12 screen on my computer yet, but it's up here.

There we go.

Johnson Commons. So you can see in the 14 January pictures on the left-hand side, we had 15 those two buildings completed, but on the 16 17 right-hand side, you can see a third building

is completed and a fourth is under 18

construction. So we continue to work there. 19

That is a for sale product in LaVilla, for 20 21 those of you who are not familiar with this 22 one. This was an important one to us because 23 we wanted to offer a for sale. We have a fair amount of workforce and affordable housing in 25 LaVilla, and it's important that we have a mix

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of units available. And this also creates a slightly larger unit and gives some more

opportunity for a family, potentially, to live

in that housing. 4

Next.

6 So on the screen I am seeing the Emerald

15

16

Trail -- there we go. The LaVilla link, which

8 is the Emerald Trail segment over on Park

9 Street, you can now see, if you're comparing it

10 to months ago where it was just looking like a

sidewalk and some paving, the trees are going 11 in. Much of the decorative, painted pavement

12 is in, and it's really starting to look like 13

the trail segment is nearing completion. 14 15

There is one area by the retention pond that they're still working on, but this is really making progress, as is Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park, which may be next. And it is.

19 So the next slide is Lift Ev'ry Voice and 20 Sing Park. You see the shotgun house that was

21 relocated there. And now you can start to see, going to the January to February slide, how you 22

23 see new siding installed, new roof being

installed, and how that is making progress in 24

25 the restoration of that building on site.

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1 Next.

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Lofts at Cathedral. And I don't -- I 2

think Vestcor has already left. They were here

for their current Lofts at Southbank project:

5 however, that project appears to me to have

been topped out between January and February

and they are now also on the interior. And 7

this has affordable housing in it and is

providing another -- 150 units, I believe? 9

MR. KELLEY: A hundred and 20.

MS. BOYER: A hundred and 20 units in the 11

12 Cathedral District.

13 Next.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a senior component

to that one as well? 15

MS. BOYER: No.

17 MR. KELLEY: No, sir. It's strictly

family. 18

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. BOYER: Liberty Street. So this is 20 21

another public project. This is one of

22 those -- if you look back and remember our

23 Mobility Plan, where we have north-south

connections across the Northbank and we have 24

east-west connections across the Northbank that 25

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are bike/ped.

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2 So Liberty Street is a north-south that 3 would take you from the Riverwalk up to Beaver Street, and this is the bike lane and striping 4 5 work that is being done on that project. And 6 you can see there is work that is actively 7 going on. It doesn't appear in the picture 8 that I can see the lane striping, but I think the lane striping has occurred. 9

10 And next is the Artea project on the Southbank. So, here again, you're going to see 11 the garage going up first. And what we had on the left-hand side were all of the stair 13 14 towers. And now, when you're looking at 15 February, you see the structure itself. And the framing is -- in a portion of the building 16 17 is topped out. Another portion, not yet, but we're getting close. 18

And Union Terminal. On the left-hand side, which was January, you had about half of the windows in. On the right-hand side, you see substantially all of the windows in and interior work beginning.

And then just some news articles, in particular about the reopening of Friendship

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Fountain, which occurred last week. 1

Long-awaited and guite significant in terms of

the improvements there. Very exciting, and it 3

is really a first phase in that park, but what 4

it shows the public and what it should show 5

board members is the concept of what we are 6

7 looking for in the riverfront destination

parks.

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So whether it is Riverfront Plaza, whether it is this park on the Southbank, whether it is the Vito DeBari exercise sculpture at Corkscrew, it's really an elevated experience over what you're going to find in a neighborhood park or a regional park that is all focused on recreation. These are much more a big destination experience.

And then I'll try to be quick on my report, but to the Chair's point, I want to tell you about things that are happening so you're aware of them.

So, first of all, from a budget standpoint, some of you were in attendance last week when we had a Budget and Finance meeting. And the committee's suggestion was that we have a workshop early next week where all board

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members are urged to attend. This meeting will set priorities for both the current year and

next and will be reflected in resolutions

prepared for March.

So we're going to be sending out inquiries 5 about availability. This won't be in our 6 normal time frame of the week prior to the board meeting. This will be earlier than that. That will be a workshop meeting. And I would

10 say, we had a workshop --11 Mr. Chairman, was that two months ago 12 where only a couple of people were able to

attend in person? 13 14

I would encourage you, if at all possible, to attend in person. It's really helpful.

Mr. Chair, do you want to comment? 16 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. It's just -- very candidly, it's just (inaudible). So I know 18 19 everybody's busy, but we did all commit to 20 serve on the board. So, if you can, if at all 21 possible, come in person. It could be very, very helpful. 22

MS. BOYER: Thank you.

24 City CIP project requests are due next 25 week for the coming year and the next five

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vears. So we will advocate for funds needed to

finish Riverfront Plaza and Shipyards West, but

we expect those to be submitted as a Parks 3 Department request. 4

So, remember, those are not -- neither of those are CRA projects. Those are City CIP projects that are under the responsibility of Parks and Public Works. So we'll support their request for additional funds for those in the process.

In addition, there will probably be requests for additional funding for the Hogan Street/Emerald Trail segment, which I attended a meeting on last week, or maybe two weeks ago, and we have another one coming up, but I think that probably is lacking funds to finish now. There will be other downtown projects submitted by Public Works.

We will also be submitting some CIP projects for the Office of Public Parking, and this would be using funds from the Office of Public Parking. So the idea here is not that we're asking the General Fund for them, but we need to get them included in the City CIP book if we're going to implement some of those

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upgrades in the system.

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The sidewalk cafe legislation is now on the top of the OGC list for drafting of Code changes. So I break that out separate from all the legislation that we filed that has to do with development approvals and things like that.

The parking RFP, those responses have been received. We received four or five bids on each of the courthouse RFPs and the sports complex garage RFPs. Mr. Heavener has agreed to score them, along with Mr. Crescimbeni and Mr. Parola. So we're giving them a couple of weeks to do that.

Speaking of RFPs, that architectural services RFP that is on the street now we expect to be closing mid March, and we will want one board member to score that, as well as -- we have not selected or had any conversations internally about staff. And so it's even possible that that could be scored by more than one board member if that was your choice. And you can share with me your desire to do so, if you're willing to do that, and I'll forward that to the Chair. Those are Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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usually appointed by the Chair, the people that score those responses.

Street Sense. So you remember that we had engaged Street Sense, at Ms. Worsham and Mr. Barakat's request, based on an April meeting last year, to do a market feasibility analysis of the restaurant in Riverfront Plaza and to do market feasibility, including references to the beer garden and cafe, taking them as givens, and also to do market feasibility on Shipyards West food and beverage establishments.

What we had not asked them to do is look at anything at Friendship Fountain or St. Johns River Park. We have now engaged them to do that and we'll have that information back to you before next month's meeting, and that would be an expectation that we will be having a conversation about that at the REPD Committee meeting in March.

In addition, DE-ZYN, who is designing the projection show, we've run into some challenges on the projector placement on the riverfront side of the Performing Arts Center.

So we know we are going to have projection Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

on the portion of the Performing Arts Center

that is on the symphony end of the hall, if you

will, the lower wall, and we're going to have a

projection that faces Riverfront Plaza.

However, the river-facing side of the fly loft,

there were some concerns raised by the Parks 6

Department that the height of the structure

needed to house the projector and the size of 8 9

the projector and how that would look. We are 10 going to be doing a test to see how visible the

surface is and how much, you know, is -- if 11

12 it's really visible and important, then it's

worth trying to figure out a solution, so we're 13 14 going to see how much -- how visible it is.

But the other thing that I may be coming back to the board for is with regard to the architectural services that we're engaging. It might be an option to consider doing a bell tower or a clock tower or something that could also be a small-footprint structure but that looks better than just housing for a projector so that we could dress it up architecturally.

And then that is not within the current park scope, and I'm talking the Performing Arts Center park scope, which would mean that DIA

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could then fund that bell tower or clock tower.

or whatever it might be, which would then

camouflage the projectors, so to speak, if we

proceed in that direction, but that's not been

decided. There will be a test and we'll 5

determine first if there's a high visibility of 6

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8 And, clearly, if we have that March 6th public input meeting, we could discuss at that 9 10 meeting the location of it, the impact on it,

11 et cetera. And I kind of -- from going back in

12 my mind, there's a bell tower in Greenville,

South Carolina that not only kind of provides, 13

you know, a melodious sound now and then during 14

15 the day, but also is an architectural element 16

that is somewhat of a feature. So I could see 17 a way that you could do that without adversely 18

impacting something, but we'll see.

Next, capital projects update. So this is 19 to the Chair's point. I'm going to do both a 20 21 private project and a capital project.

22 The Park Street road diet infrastructure 23 project is now moving forward with design build. Coxwell has been given a notice to 24 25 proceed, and they are starting work on the

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2 There is a need for additional funding for the project, but Public Works has identified 3 the source for that. So this is a City CIP 4 project, and Public Works has identified that source, so they are giving us assurances that that will be able to proceed to completion.

As you know, there's adjacent development activity that is in the pipeline, but that development activity is dependent on getting the Park Street project done.

Riverfront Plaza, construction on Independent Drive is underway, scheduled to be completed at the end of March. Too bad Mr. Gillam left because I know it impacts his commute every morning and he's always asking me when that's going to finish.

And the bulkhead is now also under construction. The balance of the park, we should be getting a guaranteed maximum price soon on that. And we believe that if we are not sufficiently funded for all of Phase 1, we're going to be very close. And my understanding is that Public Works believes that they can get that under control. And if

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they don't do it with the pricing, they'll find additional funds necessary to get that done.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Sorry to interrupt.

4 So the request that's going in for --

because Phase 2 is still everything east of

Laura, if you drew it down through the park?

MS. BOYER: Mostly. Phase 2 is east of Laura with the exception of the bulkhead and

9 the Riverwalk, which are in Phase 1.

10 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: So the CIP request from Parks for Phase 2, is it sufficient for 11

12 phase -- or going in --

> MS. BOYER: I have no idea what the number is that they are going to request for Phase 2.

15 I know that we have a pretty solid number for

16 Phase 1. Mr. Parola has been sitting in on

17 some of those meetings with the construction

manager and the Parks Department, so he can 18

19 kind of keep me apprised of what's happening,

20 but he may know if they have come up with a

good estimate for Phase 2 to be included in the 21

CIP. Hopefully, we're going to have that by 22

23 the time we need it next week or at least by

24 August when it gets official.

Next is the two-way of Forsyth and Adams.

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So EltonAlan was awarded the contract. The

kickoff meeting was held. Officially, they've

been given a Notice to Proceed and work has

begun. So they're doing some borings and some 4

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5 things like that right now. But in terms of

you seeing something happen, they're waiting on 6

signals, delivery, and other equipment items to

be delivered. But we are in the period of 8

9 completion of their contract, so they're given

10 a certain number of days and those days are

clicking away right now as you're going through 11

it. So they are moving forward on that.

Meanwhile, we're getting ready to start the unconstrained design. And what I want to share with you -- so remember, unconstrained design is when you consider moving curbs, you add more landscape, you bring out the sidewalk so that you can have sidewalk seating, et cetera.

I want to tell you the general philosophy that staff has used, so if board members think we should go a different direction, it's time tell us. So the general philosophy is that, if there is a current building with a substantial

24 useful life that is not going to change -- so

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I'll give you an example. 1

In front of the courthouse or in front of

the parking garage on Forsyth Street on the 4 side of the duPont building, the one that backs

5 up to Independent on the other side. Don't

6 really see a reason to expand that sidewalk and

add more trees to it. There are generous 7

sidewalks in front of the courthouse already. 8

9 Nothing is really going to change there to make

that a retail zone. So, in that case, we're 10

11 not suggesting that it be designed or built.

12 There are many other blocks where we are 13 suggesting that it be designed but not built.

14 So an example of that would be an existing --

15 an area where there's an existing surface

16 parking lot. I think we design for the future

17 as to what it would look like with the expanded

sidewalk, but I don't think we invest the money 18

19 in building it because at the point in time

20 somebody develops that property, that will get

21 torn up and not be built, so we need to have

22 the design so that we can share it with the

23 developer at that stage.

24 And then there are many segments 25 everywhere there are current retail

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storefronts, even if they're not occupied, 2 we're suggesting that it both be designed and 3

constructed.

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So that's kind of the philosophy that we are using in terms of segment by segment. If anybody has any thoughts that we should change that philosophy, let us know.

Next is the Hogan Street design. We talked about there's another -- there is a public stakeholder meeting scheduled on that one, after the internal meeting happens, to come kind of to a closer agreement with the design build firm as to their scope.

The Performing Arts Center wall cannot accept the LED screen. We had talked about maybe adding money to it and doing an LED screen as it faced Riverfront Plaza. The engineering results say that it won't take an LED screen on the current wall and it will interfere with the function of the pulleys and things on the inside of the fly loft, so we've gone back to projection, which is less expensive for us, and that one is not a problem about where they're located.

McCoy's Creek outfall construction is Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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underway. 1

> The FDOT bridge transfer from FDOT to the City has been approved, but it's awaiting Council legislation.

The Acosta Bridge parking. So this is the parking under the Acosta Bridge that would serve both the boat ramp and visitors to the Riverwalk. DOT property. We have the lease or air license on it. So that has been designed and permitted and it is ready to bid for construction and we are drafting the terms of

12 that contract. And WJCT road and parking design. So this 13 14

is reconfiguring the road from the new stoplight on Gator Bowl Boulevard, where you

enter WJCT and where you would enter the 16

17 AR Polar property and go to the new fire

station. We're building -- a CIP project --18

building a new road, but we have been 19 coordinating that with the Public Works 20

21 Department and with WJCT, in part because there

22 are obligations in the AR Polar agreement about

23 the timing of delivery of the road and the

impact on their site. So we're keeping track of it being on schedule. So that one is on 25

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time and on schedule at this point.

2 And if you can bear with me for just another moment, we're going to talk about private development projects that are underway.

The Gateway multi-block project that you 5 all approved a number of months ago is in OGC 6 for drafting of agreements. And Mr. Kelley and 8 I are committed that we're going to get it in the developer's hands by the end of next week, 9 10 one way or another.

As you know, I-Life, CNB, and the Ambassador are projects that have all faltered. We sent them default letters earlier in the year. There has been no work done on them for close to a year. And so we'll be sending termination letters to clean up those agreements so that we don't have dangling obligations out there.

We have the Related high-rise in review for the Southbank and we hope to have it to the board in March. I had a meeting with them Monday and a good conversation, so they're evaluating our kind of proposal and where we are on that.

Three funding concepts were presented to Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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the Trio developer. Mr. Citrano attended that

meeting on behalf of the board. Each of them

would fund the renovation of the historic

buildings and get it done guickly. So all 4

three proposals that we offered gave us that 5 6 opportunity.

A regroup was scheduled for this past week where the developer was going to get back to us with responses, but he sent us an email requesting more time and that he was not ready 11 to meet.

So from our standpoint, I just want to make sure the board is aware -- especially based on the public comments you're hearing -is that we have developed and presented options that we think can get the buildings restored, prevent them from further deterioration, and in the end not cost the City much more than what they had originally committed in the DPRP program. I mean, there would be some additional costs, but dramatically less than what was in the bond proposal. So we'll see if

24 We have several new FAB-REP requests that 25 are in review that you'll see in March.

we can get that one moving.

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I mentioned that we had two developers, in addition to Carter, that are working on new proposals for Ford on Bay.

4 I mentioned the American Lions updated proposal.

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We have a new Southbank project that we met with where they are advancing design on a 500-unit project that we're talking about.

Iguana, office building, closed on their financing last week. They have been moving forward with design and permitting of the marina and the marina support building. Cranes are expected to arrive the week of March 11th for -- they have almost all the pilings in the ground and they're going to be able to start vertical, so they'll be doing pile caps and then vertical. So you'll see that.

That's the one that I said -- one of the bright, shiny objects that is moving forward, while the others are more in the nature of the singles.

AR Polar is discussing a potential sale of the entire parcel.

And Cross Regions is continuing to develop the proposal for the east Landing lot, between

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operator, to ensure the safety of people using 2 those facilities.

3 So both the Duval Street library garage that you all probably park in and the Ed Ball 4 garage are going to get those structural studies, and then we'll see what they recommend 7 in terms of improvements.

And I'll stop there and thank you for the very long meeting and your attendance.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will also thank our board members, especially the new ones. We do have, occasionally, very lengthy board meetings. This is one of them. So thank you, everybody.

I think you can tell by the CEO's report, we do have a lot going on, and most of it is really, really good. Are there setbacks? Yes. Rise Doro, setback. The challenges with some of these larger projects, obviously, a setback. But on the whole, the City, this agency, from where I sit, is doing a wonderful job, and we have a lot of really, really good projects and exciting projects, and the momentum is still very strong, so thank you.

If there's no other business to discuss, I'm going to adjourn the meeting now.

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the bridge and the Hyatt.

So all of those are various -- either in progress, under construction, or new development transactions that people are

5 talking to us about right now.

And I probably missed a few. I know Mr. Kelley and Mr. DeVault are working on some additional ones, but it is not like people aren't still interested in developing downtown. There are plenty of them out there trying to

10 11 get appointments to make presentations on 12 ideas.

And we have two bills that are going through Council right now. One is our Southbank -- or Northbank appropriation of excess revenue from MPS garages that was approved in committees today and yesterday.

And the other one is the fund transfer from the Office of Public Parking to do structural studies on the Ed Ball and Yates garage. This was kind of a follow-up to the St. Vincent's garage issue. And when we discovered that there had not been structural

studies done for an extended period of time, felt like it was important for -- as the

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Thank you all very much. 1

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 4:36 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF DUVAL) 5 6 7 I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did 8 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and 9 that the transcript is a true and complete record of my 10 stenographic notes. 11 12 13 14 DATED this 2nd day of March 2024. 15 16 17 18 19 Diane M. Tropia Florida Professional Reporter 20 21 22 23 24 25 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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