

**Lawrenceville Downtown Development Authority  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2008**

**DDA MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Reedy (Chair), Marie Beiser (Vice Chair), Danny Gravitt (Treasurer), Larry Still.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tony Powell (Webb, Tanner, Powell, Mertz & Wilson), Dr. Judy Johnson (City Council), Bob Clark (City Council), Rex Millsaps (Mayor), David Gussio (WTPMW), Private Citizens and Property Owners.

The Board members of the Lawrenceville Downtown Development Authority met on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 pm at Old City Hall in Lawrenceville, GA. David Gussio, of WTPMW, kept the minutes of the meeting.

**1.0 – Call to Order** – Mike Reedy called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

**2.0 – Quorum** – It was determined that a quorum was present.

**3.0 – Minutes** – Marie Beiser made a motion to approve the November 26 minutes, which was seconded by Larry Still. The motion passed unanimously.

**4.0 – Agenda Approval** – Following the approval of the minutes, Danny Gravitt made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Marie Beiser. The motion passed unanimously.

**5.0 – OLD BUSINESS**

**5.1 – Oakes House Welcome Center Update**

The first announcement was the \$50,000 donation by Ms. Baby Oakes Baggett. In return for this donation, the house will be named after her father. There was also discussion of sending Ms. Baggett a letter of appreciation. Next, Dr. Judy Johnson gave a report from the Welcome Center committee. The committee has met twice, obtained a punch-list for renovations and another for landscaping, and would like Mike Reedy to go before the City Council to ask for requests for proposals. Danny Gravitt suggested that the City's master carpenter be involved in the renovations. Dr. Johnson informed the group that Mr. Gravitt's suggestion was already being considered. Next, there was some discussion about the cost of the landscaping plan. The company that gave the punch-list is asking \$1700 to do a plan. Other options are available such as using the landscaping company the City contracted with or maybe asking the landscaping program at Gwinnett Tech to donate something. Finally, Dr. Johnson noted that someone from the Veterans Museum expressed an interest in putting a display in the Welcome Center. Marie Beiser made a motion to send a DDA member to the City Council to ask for RFP's for the renovations and landscaping. Danny Gravitt seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

**5.2 – Trolley Service Update**

Jerry Moore was present to give an update. Meetings with GJAC have gone well. GJAC supports the trolley, is willing to give access to their internal email system, and will have a survey completed in the next few weeks. Some things to continue working on are the barricades

in front of GJAC and the location and style of signs indicating the place and time of trolley stops. Test rides have gone well. The route has been shortened to stops at GJAC and One Justice Square. Jerry Moore also passed out a proposed operating cost showing potential advertising revenue and 3 and 5 day schedules. This proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". There were general, positive comments about the condition of the trolley, the timing of the route, and the location of the stops. Jerry Moore stated that he could still be ready to start by April. Next, there was general discussion on funding problems and advertising on the outside of the trolley. In regard to signage, Mike Reedy asked Tony Powell what style of signage would be allowed under the City's sign ordinances. Mr. Powell assured Mr. Reedy that because the DDA is a government entity the sign ordinance would not apply to this project. Mr. Powell further explained that the DDA will have to abide by DOT and other applicable rules, but the City sign ordinances are inapplicable. Next, there was general discussion about permanent vs. temporary signs and the breakdown of cost per day. Finally, there was more discussion on funding, especially the idea of the DDA funding the first two months of service to help get the project running. Danny Gravitt made a motion to table this issue until the survey report comes back and some initial marketing is done. This motion was seconded by Larry Still and passed unanimously.

## **6.0 – NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 – Downtown Crosswalks and Signage**

Mike Reedy opened this issue by discussing the speed of traffic downtown and the white paint crosswalks. Mr. Reedy opined that having brick crosswalks, possibly raised, would enhance the aesthetic appeal of downtown while having the added effect of slowing traffic. Mr. Reedy went on to add that the crosswalks would not need to be real brick; the decorative concrete would work just as well. Next, there was general discussion about the City's LCI project, including the details of the project and the possibility of adding Mr. Reedy's idea of an upgraded sidewalk design to the overall LCI project. Next, Marie Beiser brought up the idea of having wrought iron signs indicating what stores are located on each block. Madison is a good example of a location that has put this design to use. Next, there was a general discussion of the lighting of the Welcome to Historic Lawrenceville signs. Danny Gravitt will speak with Tommy Fowler of the City's electric department to determine which signs could be lighted. At this point, the discussion went back to the sidewalk idea and the LCI project. Danny Gravitt made a motion to contact Hayes James to get the sidewalk idea included in their plan for the LCI project. This motion was seconded by Marie Beiser and passed unanimously. Finally, there was discussion about the speed of downtown traffic and the inability to easily walk from parking to the Welcome Center.

### **6.2 – DDA Projects Review & Discussion**

Mike Reedy announced that the purpose of this topic was simply to take a look back at what the goals were for 2007, which of those goals were accomplished, which weren't, and what goals the DDA might look at for 2008. Some of the goals were the new historic center, walking trails, train depot renovation, new theatre, new LTTA office, Welcome Center, Police center, Utilities center, city gallery, Old Lawrenceville High School, amphitheatre, parks, court house

square plaza, and parking deck. Many of these have been accomplished or are well on their way to completion.

### **7.0 – Citizen Comments**

Tony Powell announced that the DCA needed the DDA to approve a resolution regarding the Rock, Paper, Scissors, LLC grant. Marie Beiser made a motion to approve the resolution and have the chairman sign it when it was ready. This motion was seconded by Danny Gravitt and passed unanimously.

Danny Gravitt gave a treasury report, announcing the amounts the DDA and LDA have in their bank accounts. Each has approximately \$25,000.

**8.0 – Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with a motion from Marie Beiser and a second from Danny Gravitt. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by David Gussio.**