

MINUTES
LDDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
City Commission Conference Room
Thursday, June 21, 2007
8:00 AM

PRESENT: Ford Heacock, Joe Mawhinney, Janet Tucker, Jerry Herring, David Hallock, Justin Wilson, Heather Huebner, LeRoy Bradley, Ellen Simms, Julie Townsend, Steve Bissonnette, Becky Abel

ABSENT: Jim Verplanck, Chris McLaughlin, Anne Furr

MINUTES: Jerry Herring moved approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2007 regular LDDA Board of Directors Meeting. Motion seconded by David Hallock. Motion passed 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

May 2007 – Janet Tucker, Treasurer, reported that income for May was \$3,517.71. Year to date income was \$520,865.33, which is about 6% over budget. Expenses for May were \$24,123.47. Year-to-date expenses were \$415,956.00, which is about 76% of budget.

QUIET ZONE: Heather Huebner presented her research on the Quiet Zone for trains. The Quiet Zones are governed by the Federal Railroad Administration and not CSX. CSX cannot deny permission to pursue the Quiet Zone. There are 13 crossings affected. The average train speed through Downtown is 45 miles per hour. The cost to get a Quiet Zone ranges from \$1.5 million to \$4 million. It is thought that some crossings already are in compliance with the requirements for the Quiet Zone. The goal is to get the average of risk factors below the target number. Tom Drake from the Federal Railroad Administration met with Heather recently and examined the crossings. His thinking was to put channelization at Massachusetts Avenue, to close Tennessee and Kentucky Avenue crossings, leave the Missouri Avenue crossing the same, and add channel to New York Avenue. When crossings are closed, it has a major effect on lowering the crossing risk factor. It would not be acceptable to close Kentucky and Tennessee crossings. Heather said it may be acceptable and helpful to close the Orange Avenue crossing to the east of US 98 S.

CSX TASK FORCE REPORT: Joe Mawhinney reported that the meeting held last week with CSX confirmed an unacceptable situation. He thinks that we will need to appeal to the State. Joe felt that we should pursue getting somebody (the State, CSX) to help pay for mitigation because we are not going to stop the project. In addition to the increased freight traffic, AMTRAK still uses the line through Downtown for its passenger trains.

Jerry Herring proposed that we hire someone to count trains. Steve Bissonnette will see if Traffic Operations will be able to accomplish an actual count.

Joe Mawhinney was excused from the meeting.

David Hallock moved that LDDA write a letter supporting the DRI and send it to the DCA and a copy to the City, media and other public officials. Motion seconded by Jerry Herring. Motion passed 4-0. The point in the letter that should be emphasized is that the decision to allow CSX to go ahead with the project before the completion of the DRI is precedent-setting.

David Hallock moved to send a second letter to the City Commission, opposing the terminal in Winter Haven. Motion seconded by Jerry Herring. Motion passed 4-0.

Steve Bissonnette will get a copy of the County's letter for reference. There is a meeting at 1 p.m. today at the Lakeland Center which is open to the public. The meeting will be with Tom Drake of the Federal Railroad Administration, the CSX Task Force, City Commissioners and LDDA Board members.

COMMITTEES:

Design Review Committee – Approved since May 17, 2007 Meeting:

808 E Main Street, Kemira, ground sign

20 Lake Wire Drive, ASC Geosciences, fountain

Retail / Recruitment Development Committee – The Committee has met four times and is making progress. A charrette is planned for late August that would draw in stakeholders. Larry Ross has been proposed as facilitator. **Moved and seconded that up to \$2,500 be authorized for expenditure from 8920.12-Recruitment / Retention for Larry Ross’ fee as facilitator. Motion passed 4-0.**

Farmers Curb Market – Janet Tucker reported that the Downtown Farmers Curb Market will close for the month of August 2007. Jerry requested that signs be made that would say that the Market is closed during that time and will re-open in September.

DLP REPORT: Julie Townsend, DLP Executive Assistant, reported that the June First Friday was rained out, but the Celtic theme would be carried over to July’s First Friday. The DLP Retreat was held recently. 70,000 new brochures/maps will be produced by August. They will feature advertisements and event listings. DLP will work with Kevin Cook to use the same map that has been developed for wayfinding.

CITY COMMISSION REPORT: There was no report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: No report

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: In Anne Furr’s absence, Ford Heacock presented the Director’s Report.

Order of Taking Hearing – Anne is at the hearing.

Financial Disclosure Form – These must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections by July 2.

2008 LDDA Retreat – The Retreat has been set for February 21, 2008.

2007 FRA Annual Conference Oct. 24-26 – **Jerry Herring moved and David Hallock seconded the motion to allow up to \$800 sending Anne Furr to this conference.**

NEW BUSINESS:

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

The next LDDA Board Meeting will be Thursday, 19, 2007 in the City Commission Conference Room, 3rd floor, City Hall. (The July 5 meeting was cancelled.)