

**REGULAR MEETING  
MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Area Board was held Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Daytona Beach City Hall, 301 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida. The following people were present:

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Kenya Ford, Chair  
Mr. Martin Tooley  
Mr. Danny Fuqua  
Mr. Steven Miller  
Mr. Oliver Ross

**Board Members Absent**

Mr. Tony Barhoo

**Staff Members Present**

Mr. Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director  
Mr. Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager  
Mr. Ben Gross, Assistant City Attorney  
Ms. Becky Groom, Board Secretary

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Tooley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

The roll was called and attendance was noted as stated above.

**3. Invocation**

Mr. Miller gave the invocation.

**4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Ms. Ford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2016**

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Ford, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016, regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Board. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

6. **Staff Report**

**Police Department**

Capt. J. Young presented the Compstat report which was included as part of the packet. Capt. Young stated the Compstat figures as of today for the Midtown district indicated that burglaries were up 18%; larcenies were up 11% due to an increase in the number of shoplifting incidents reported; and there was a decrease by 45% in robberies. Capt. Young stated total aggravated assaults and batteries had increased by 81%.

Capt. Young stated individuals leaving keys in their automobiles was a major cause for auto thefts. He asked that Board members help spread the word throughout the community to remind individuals to not leave their keys in their automobiles, even in their own driveways.

Capt. Young stated signs had been posted on Pearl and Walnut that only motorcycle parking would be permitted in the park and the entrance for motorcycle only parking would be on the Green Street side. He stated the park would be staffed for lot security but there was no charge for parking.

Capt. Young stated he had a positive meeting with the owners of the Beritz Club who have advised that the fence had helped their business. He stated BCU has a key to the fence which they would unlock when deliveries were made to the Beritz Club and then was locked after the delivery truck is gone.

Mr. Miller asked if the City had given the park to Bethune-Cookman.

Capt. Young said no; he said Bethune-Cookman had a new dormitory near the fence and volunteered to help with the opening and closing of the fence.

Mr. Miller stated he heard a meeting was held between Bethune-Cookman and the City Manager and the park was given to Bethune-Cookman. Mr. Miller expressed concern that the park is locked and closed.

Capt. Young stated he heard the same rumor but that has not been confirmed. He stated the park was accessible for the children via the walkways but the lot was closed after dark. He stated Green Street was open 24/7.

Mr. Tooley stated it concerned him that the media always reports that crime happens near Bethune-Cookman, regardless of the location. He asked if anything could be done to ask the media to more accurately reflect the correct location.

Capt. Young stated the Police Chief has had conversations with the media about reporting the correct location. He stated the Police Chief encouraged individuals to contact the editor or managers of the media outlets to send the message about incorrect addresses.

Mr. Tooley asked for a patrol car to visit the area on Marion Street between South and Cedar. He expressed concern about possible gang activity in the area.

Mr. Miller asked about the tag readers and asked if that had helped recover stolen vehicles.

Capt. Young stated it had been very helpful and the Department had almost doubled the number of vehicles that are recovered.

Mr. Fuqua stated he was concerned about 955 Orange Avenue and some of the activities taking place there.

Mr. Fuqua stated he had noticed several police cars behind the Public Works facility that are no longer used and asked what was planned for the vehicles.

Capt. Young stated he did not know the timeline for disposal of the vehicles.

### **Code Enforcement**

A Code Enforcement report was not provided and there was not a representative in attendance from Code Enforcement.

## **7. Election of Officers**

### **Board Action:**

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fuqua, to appoint Kenya Ford as Chair. The motion carried 4-1 (Ms. Ford voting nay).

A motion was made by Ms. Ford to nominate Mr. Fuqua as Chair. The motion failed for lack of a second. Mr. Fuqua stated he would like to see Ms. Ford as Chair and stated he would serve as Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Ford, to appoint Mr. Fuqua as Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Ms. Ford took over as Chair and continued the meeting.

Mr. Miller commended Mr. Tooley for his service as Chair of the Board.

## **8. Redevelopment Project Updates**

Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager, stated he believed the bikers would start coming into the west side on Thursday; and Friday through Sunday night would be busy. He stated he had not had any complaints so far, and usually concerns surround parking on vacant lots.

Mr. Bryant encouraged the Board members to attend the Compstat meeting this Thursday at the Police Department.

Mr. Fuqua asked why construction had stopped on the Orange Avenue project. He stated the east end of the project was completed and there was no work being done on the west end.

Mr. Bryant stated a meeting would be held on March 24 about the Orange Avenue construction project and stated that questions regarding the project would be answered at that meeting.

Mr. Fuqua stated he had been talking to local business owners and inviting them to attend the Midtown meetings. He asked if a draft letter could be prepared that he could distribute to business owners to invite them to the meetings.

Mr. Berger stated he will see what can be prepared. Mr. Berger stated Mr. Bryant could distribute a notice when he made face to face visits with the businesses. He stated individuals could also watch the meetings on television.

Ms. Ford stated the schedule of meetings for the year could be distributed at churches so people would know the schedule for the year.

Mr. Bryant stated Rev. Carl Brinkley had passed away. Mr. Bryant stated Rev. Brinkley was a previous Executive Director of the Housing Authority and was the first black Sheriff's Deputy in Volusia County.

**9. Public Comments**

Sabrina Sessoms, 566 Reed Canal Road, No. 24, South Daytona, Florida, stated she recently visited Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach and noticed a lot of activity there. She stated she would like to see that type of environment in Midtown. She stated she also visited Port Orange Family Days and would like to see similar festivals held in Midtown. She stated she would like to participate in events but would like to know about the planning stages of events so she could be involved in the formulation of events.

Mr. Bryant stated information could be gathered on the City website and there was now a broadcast on the 106.3 radio station every Thursday at noon. Mr. Bryant encouraged Ms. Sessoms to be involved in the Juneteenth celebration and stated Cultural Services was planning events for Daisy Stocking Park during the summer.

Mr. Ross stated he received emails from the city on upcoming events.

**10. Board Comments**

Mr. Ross stated he was glad to see there would be a meeting about the Orange Avenue construction project since his business had been affected by the construction.

Mr. Miller stated Leisure Services would have their second Board meeting on Wednesday, March 9.

Mr. Miller stated Leisure Services was not responsible for properties and stated the parks in the city were under another department. Mr. Miller stated there was no oversight of the Boards. He stated he felt the City Manager was the best in the world in micro-managing.

Mr. Fuqua stated he had been visiting the businesses in Midtown and encouraged Board members to visit the merchants in Midtown as well.

Mr. Tooley stated he felt there were too many things stopping businesses from coming into the community. He stated this Board and the citizens of Midtown were promised that the Orange Avenue construction project would start at Nova Road and go east, finishing one and two blocks as they go, and that has not happened. He stated out in front of City Hall the project is completed, it is a beautiful new street, and has new sidewalks. He stated everything from Ridgewood to Beach Street looks beautiful but everything from Ridgewood to Martin Luther King looks horrible; and Martin

Luther King to Franklin Street is closed. Mr. Tooley stated over 2/3 of the businesses are unable to operate with the street closed. Mr. Tooley stated the city should be held accountable for what was said and the elected officials should be held accountable.

Ms. Ford stated she was surprised to hear that parks and recreation was not under Leisure Services.

Ms. Ford asked for the status of the implementation of the Master Plan.

Mr. Berger stated the city was a long way from implementing the Midtown Master Plan. He stated there were other major projects, including Orange Avenue and sidewalk projects, and there was concern about funding. He stated there were a number of buildings that could be reoccupied. He stated there had been some interest expressed in businesses around Bethune-Cookman that are vacant along ISB.

Ms. Ford stated she felt Parks and Recreation does a disservice to our children. She stated there was much more offered when she was a child.

Mr. Miller stated he believed the golf course is an enterprise fund and was concerned that there was no input from the citizens on how funds were spent.

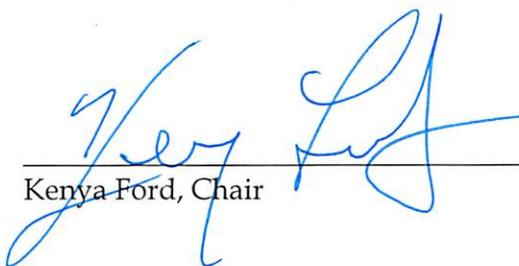
Mr. Ross asked if events could be held quarterly on Second Avenue for the community, such as the ones held in New Smyrna and Port Orange.

Mr. Bryant stated he coordinates the Light Up Midtown event each year and the merchants do not participate. Mr. Bryant stated that perhaps Mr. Ross could help him to get the merchants involved.

Mr. Miller stated there should be open vending on Daisy Stocking Park.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

  
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Kenya Ford, Chair

  
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Becky Groom, Board Secretary