

**REGULAR MEETING
MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Area Board was held Tuesday, April 12, 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
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

Ms. Ford 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. Fuqua gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mr. Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Barhoo, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016, regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Board. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

6. **Staff Report**

Police Department

Lt. B. Williams presented the Compstat Report, which was included as part of the packet. Lt. Williams stated in the past two weeks, 14 vehicles had been stolen; however, 11 had been recovered. He stated there had been 53 incidents of domestic violence in the last two weeks and 39 arrests had been made related to those incidents. Lt. Williams stated there had been 28 car burglaries and the majority were due to unlocked vehicles. He stated undercover officers were working at gas stations to watch for car burglaries as well as leaving bait cars in the area. He stated there had been a decrease in burglaries during the most recent two week period. Lt. Williams stated a major concern is the juvenile crimes. He stated 10% of the juveniles cause 89% of the problem.

Mr. Barhoo asked if there were repeat offenders in domestic violence and what programs were available for them.

Lt. Williams said yes there were a large number of repeat offenders and Sophia Vessa was instrumental in bringing programs that were nationally recognized to the community. Lt. Williams stated many times what is offered to an individual depends on the sentencing and parole from the court system.

Mr. Tooley stated based on the report presented, Zone 3 was in pretty good shape and commended the Police Department for the work they do. Mr. Tooley thanked the Police Department for the increased patrol in Midtown, particularly in the Marion Street area.

Mr. Tooley thanked the Police Department for implementing the Safe Surrender program.

Lt. Williams stated 28 individuals came into the department as a result of the program and 4 had outstanding warrants.

Ms. Ford asked about the PAL program and if it was in existence.

Lt. Williams stated PAL was part of the City program and the Police Department helps families that cannot afford for their children to attend the program.

Ms. Ford stated she liked the SRO program that is in place in the schools.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Bryant stated included in the packet is information provided by Code Enforcement regarding the Code Enforcement complaint process.

Mr. Fuqua stated he had a problem with Waste Pro. He stated large piles of yard waste were not being picked up throughout the community. He stated he had reported his concerns to Waste Pro and had informed Waste Pro that the drivers were not reporting large piles of debris that needed to be picked up. Mr. Fuqua stated he felt the large piles of debris made the city look trashy. Mr. Fuqua stated Waste Pro had a contract and they had a cherry picker and they were not providing services.

Mr. Barhoo asked when Waste Pro's contract was to be negotiated because citizen input was needed in order to determine if the city would continue to pay them.

Mr. Bryant stated he would make Waste Pro aware of the Board's concerns.

Mr. Berger stated he would look into Mr. Fuqua's concerns.

7. **Redevelopment Project Updates**

Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager, stated a well-known member of the community, Larry Ruth James Hyde, recently passed away. Mr. Bryant stated Ms. Hyde was a resident of the community for over 50 years. He stated a resolution from the Midtown Redevelopment Board was presented to the family.

Mr. Bryant stated a flyer was distributed throughout the community to inform residents of the date and time of the Midtown Redevelopment Board meeting, as requested by the Board.

Mr. Bryant presented a schedule of activities that would be coordinated through Cultural Services for activities to be held at Cypress Park from April 16 through September 24.

Mr. Bryant stated a forum would be held on May 14 at the Midtown Cultural Center regarding Law Enforcement and Community Relations.

Mr. Bryant stated the Juneteenth banquet would be held on June 16 at the Midtown Cultural Center. The Juneteenth festival would be held on June 18 at the Cypress Street Park.

Mr. Bryant stated the Daytona Express Track Team currently had 58 children involved in the program and recently competed in Kissimmee. Mr. Bryant stated the program was started in 2014 and had 9 children enrolled. He stated he was making an effort to assist the Police Department to help the youth of the community.

Mr. Bryant stated he was working with 15 youth from his church that do praise dancing and the group had performed at a number of events throughout the community.

Mr. Miller stated he served on the Leisure Services Board; and he thought when he asked the city to create the board, the board would be involved with ballfields; however, there are no fields whatsoever under Leisure Services. He stated it was a disgrace for a city to take all of its parks and give them to cultural events. He asked if there were any black cultural events taking place in the community. He asked who represents the citizens of this community.

Ms. Ford presented a brochure that was prepared by the City of South Daytona that outlines the schedule of programs offered in the city. She stated a brochure was mailed to their citizens twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. She stated Daytona Beach was a larger municipality than South Daytona and nothing was offered to the youth in Daytona Beach. She stated it was very disheartening.

Mr. Ross stated our opinion can be voiced at Board meetings, but what would be done about the lack of programs for the youth.

Mr. Bryant stated the Board's concerns should be voiced to the City Commission.

Mr. Berger encouraged the Board to discuss their concerns with Helen Riger in Cultural Services.

Ms. Ford stated it was an election year so the Board's voices should be heard.

Mr. Fuqua stated the Board members should address the City Commission at the City Commission meetings about their concerns regarding the lack of program offerings for the youth in the community.

Mr. Barhoo stated he would report the Board's concerns about the lack of program offerings for the youth of the community to the Planning Board at their next meeting.

8. **Public Comments**

John Nicholson, 413 N. Grandview, stated he has been hoping Martin Luther King Blvd. would be redone and asked the Board to request an update on that project. Mr. Nicholson stated the former City Manager Carey Smith is the individual that divided Parks and Recreation and created Leisure Services. Mr. Nicholson stated individuals that volunteer their time to work with the youth in the community should not be charged for use of fields and facilities, such as the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Nicholson stated fields used to be used by football teams but the fields have been converted to a baseball field and tennis courts. Mr.

Nicholson stated when he asked Cassandra Reynolds about the football teams using the fields, she stated we did not need football. He stated that was very stereotypical of a racism. He stated you do not send a couple hundred boys who want to play football to two tennis courts. Mr. Nicholson stated the city was currently reviewing the rates for use of facilities and encouraged the Board to ask the City Commission to not charge individuals who volunteer to coordinate programs for the youth.

9. **Board Comments**

Mr. Miller stated the City Manager's evaluation was due within the next couple of months. He asked the Board members to contact their Commissioners to determine whether the City Manager should receive a zero or 1 for his evaluation.

Mr. Miller asked why we have a Midtown Board when there was nothing presented for the Board to approve or review. He stated it was the same as the Leisure Services Board and nothing was presented for them to review. He stated it was a disgrace and there was no citizen input in our community.

Mr. Berger stated if there were no projects coming forward, there would be nothing to present. He stated there had been concern about the Board not meeting and the Board would now meet every month. He stated the last 45 minutes had been spent meeting. He stated regardless of whether there was formal action taken, there were items the Board would like to discuss.

Mr. Barhoo stated many of the items presented to the Planning Board had already been reviewed by the Midtown Redevelopment Board. He stated the Board's voices had been heard through the Planning Board.

Mr. Fuqua stated some soil work was done on Caroline Drive about a month ago and the work had not been finished.

Mr. Berger stated he would look into that concern tomorrow.

Mr. Tooley stated there was a meeting held at the Dickerson Center regarding Orange Avenue. He stated the meeting was an insult to the intelligence of the citizens of Midtown. He stated the first thing that was said was that citizens could not ask questions. He stated the citizens were asked to write their questions down and the questions would be addressed within 10 to 15 days. Mr. Tooley stated the Acting City Attorney was present at the meeting and the reason the statement was made was because the City was involved in a lawsuit and was concerned that something may be said that would hurt the litigation. He stated what was being done right now was tantamount to what was being done during urban renewal. He stated nothing was resolved at the meeting. Mr. Tooley stated two years ago when the project was discussed, the project was planned to start at Nova Road and head east and the reason was because we did not want the money to run out before

the project got to Midtown. Mr. Tooley stated three years ago the Midtown Board discussed that MLK would be worked on as the City was working on Orange Avenue and he understood funding was put in place to do it. He asked why that hasn't been done and where the funding is. He stated the power had been taken away from every one of the Redevelopment Boards. He stated most of the things that were previously done by the Midtown Board were handled administratively. Mr. Tooley stated the costs for individuals to use city facilities was ridiculous. He stated the facility on George Engram was a wonderful facility but nobody could afford to use it. He stated individuals in one of the most economically deprived areas of the city could not afford to spend \$1,500 to rent a facility. He asked what happened to the Little League. He stated Daytona Beach was not only non-business friendly but it was non-resident friendly. Mr. Tooley stated this was an election year; and if the elected officials had not done what they said they were going to do, then they don't need to be back in office. He stated there were some individuals who did not need to be back in office. He stated there were some things going on in the City that were very good. He stated he liked some of the free programs that would be offered in Midtown by Cultural Services. He stated he agreed with Mr. Nicholson that someone who is offering their time should not be charged. Mr. Tooley stated the Board members should attend City Commission meetings and let them know that they were not happy with what was being charged for use of city facilities.

Ms. Ford stated the charges for renting the Midtown Cultural Center and Yvonne Scarlett Golden Center are ridiculously overpriced. She stated it places limitations on the use of the facilities. Ms. Ford stated she served on the Pop Warner Board for 8 years and it was always a hassle with the city for charges for lighting and police presence on the fields. She stated Pop Warner did not make a profit and the fees hurt the program. Ms. Ford stated there were events held throughout the community, such as Bike Week, and asked what happened to the funds collected by the city from those events. She asked if the funds that were collected in Midtown could be allocated to help with programs for the youth in Midtown. She asked why the Midtown-Motown programs were being held at Cypress Street when Daisy Stockton already had a stage. She stated a stage would have to be built at Cypress Street to offer the concerts. Ms. Ford asked if a letter could be generated to help solicit funds for programs in Midtown.

Mr. Gross stated in order to raise funds that subject would have to be a request presented to the City Commission.

Mr. Miller stated there was a Downtown Redevelopment Board and a Downtown Development Authority and asked what their roles were.

Mr. Gross stated the Downtown Redevelopment Board was an advisory board and the Downtown Development Authority was a special taxing district set up by the legislature.

Mr. Berger stated to create a Development Authority in Midtown would cause a tax increase in Midtown which would not be very popular.

Mr. Miller stated the special events generate revenue and we have no authority to do anything in our neighborhood.

Ms. Ford asked that Mr. Berger provide her with an answer about funds collected during special events.

Mr. Gross stated he will research for Mr. Miller to see how a special district could be set up.

Mr. Tooley asked if there could be a different millage for absentee owners as opposed to those who live on their property.

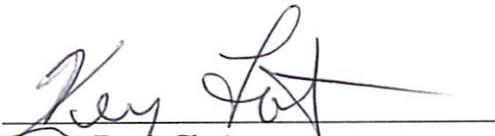
Mr. Gross stated there was a Homestead Exemption under State law. He stated the city had authority to levy taxes but exemptions are controlled by the State.

John Nicholson, 413 N. Grandview, stated he attends all of the Board meetings. He stated a meeting was held at the Peabody regarding the e-zone and the staff told citizens they could not ask questions. He stated there was a Main Street Merchants Association and they raised funds among themselves to have events on Main Street and the creation of a merchants association may be something that could be created along Mary McLeod Bethune. He stated Commissioner Paula Reed expressed concern about the schedule of events to be held at Cypress Street when the events could be held at Daisy Stockton and could easily be attended by students from Bethune-Cookman University. Mr. Nicholson encouraged the Board to talk to the Black Clergy Alliance to discuss creating programs for the youth.

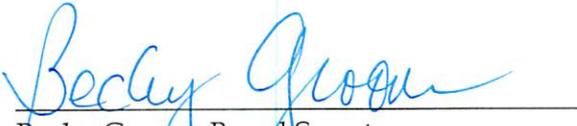
Ms. Ford thanked the Board for their input and attendance. She thanked staff for their support of the Board.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Kenya Ford, Chair



Becky Groom, Board Secretary