

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
June 9, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, June 9, 2016, at 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Board members; Wirt, Phillips, Sommer, Hewitt, and Silvas.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Myrkle, Deputy Clerk Dell'Acqua and Mayor Lewis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2016: Board member Wirt moved to approve the minutes for April 14, 2016, as presented. Supported by Phillips. Carried. 5 Yes. 0 No.

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSSION OUTDOOR DINING:

Director Myrkle distributed the 2005 City Policy concerning sidewalk cafes. He reported that there hasn't been much interest until now. He reported that there was a request, from Reidy's Restaurant, to extend the hours of the policy from 10:00 p.m to 11:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the extension of hours, the difference between sidewalk café and sidewalk bar, and the rules of the noise ordinance.

Phillips moved to recommend to City Council an extension of the hours to 11:00 p.m. and to have the policy include dates of April 15 through November 15. Second by Wirt. 4 yes. 0 No. Abstain 1 (Hewitt).

B. DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING FOOD TRUCKS TO OPERATE IN CHARLOTTE:

Director Myrkle reported that the current City ordinance does not mention food truck establishments. He asked the Planning Commission to consider modifying the rules of the ordinance. Many of the current restaurant owners came forward, during public comment, to voice their concerns. Their concerns ranged from the quality of food handling standards to paying city taxes, to the city allowing an open door policy which they stated would take away income from the downtown restaurant business, particularly lunch business.

Discussion was held among the DDA board members regarding the location of the trucks, the concerns of the local restaurant owners, the cost of permits, the unfair competition infringing on the "brick & mortar" businesses, to bringing in more people to the downtown area because of a variety of menus.

Mayor Lewis commented that, in Monroe, Georgia, had established a Food Truck Friday and it had seemed to work quite well for everyone there. He encouraged the DDA board to participate in the Planning Commission meetings.

Chairperson Sommer asked if the City Council needed a recommendation from the board today on the food trucks.

Director Myrkle stated that would not be necessary but, wanted to get a general consensus from this board to discuss their what concerns may be for the planning commission.

PROJECT RISING TIDE UPDATE

Director Myrkle reported that the Main Street Community Project has been established and the city is working to the next level. He stated that Mr. Dillon Rush, from Hayes Green Beach, is assisting him with recording the history of the buildings. They are taking photos of the older buildings and writing a brief history of them.

He reported that City Manager Guetschow is leading an effort to create a new 501C3 to serve as the organizational home of Charlotte's Michigan Main Street activities.

There has been a change of hands for some of the downtown buildings such as, Christiansen's and the former Bank of America building. The good news is that the new owners are redeveloping these buildings.

He reported that the new loft apartments above the Masonic Temple are being rented.

There will be Main Street – Rising Tide meetings in the near future and he encouraged the board members to participate.

Board member Silvas left at 8:40 a.m.

PUBLIC ART UPDATE

Director Myrkle stated that the City received the Grant for the public sculpture at Peters Circle. The sculptor, Frank Balluf is from Charlotte.

OTHER UPDATES:

Director Myrkle reminded the Board that Celebrate Charlotte will be next week, June 15 – 19th. He commented that Touch a Truck was on Thursday, June 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday's events will include the Blues & Brews Concert, the Car Cruise-In, the Pancake Breakfast and Fly-in at the Airport.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:44 a.m.

Denise Dell'Acqua, Deputy City Clerk