

**MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

A meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Area Board was held Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Daytona Beach City Hall, 301 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL. The following people were present:

Board Members

Mr. Martin Tooley, Chair
Ms. Patricia Heard
Dr. Irma Browne Jamison
Mr. Kenneth McGee (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Ms. Kenya Ford
Mr. Wilburn Williams (left at 7:30 p.m.)

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Shirley Benjamin
Ms. Margaret Symonette
Ms. Denise Cato

Staff Members Present

Mr. Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director
Ms. Ben Gross, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Becky Groom, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. Groom called the roll and noted members present as stated above.

3. Invocation

Mr. Williams gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Dr. Jamison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **Approval of Minutes for May 14, 2013**

Ms. Heard stated that on Page 8 under Board Action, the motion should read that Ms. Heard made the motion, seconded by Dr. Jamison.

Board Action:

Ms. Heard made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2013, with corrections as stated above. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

6. **Staff Reports**

Mr. McGee arrived.

Police Department

Mr. Tooley discussed the Compstat report and stated he was concerned about the number of sexual batteries on a child which had increased from 2 to 6 incidents. He stated he would contact Capt. Blanchette to prepare the letter that was discussed at last month's meeting that would be provided to the churches regarding notices of burglaries and other crimes. Mr. Tooley stated he had been encouraging members of the community and representatives of organizations to attend the Midtown meetings to provide input regarding their concerns.

Mr. Williams stated Capt. Blanchette attended his Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting and reviewed the Compstat report. Mr. Williams stated he hoped people that attend the Neighborhood Crime Watch Meetings would become involved politically in the community. Mr. Williams stated that attending the Neighborhood Crime Watch Meetings and being involved in the churches were excellent opportunities to bring people together. He stated they would have to be creative in ways to get to a large number of people.

Mr. Tooley asked Mr. Gross if there was anything that would prevent the Board from sending a letter to the churches in the Midtown area regarding the concerns outlined in the Compstat report.

Mr. Gross stated general policies could be outlined in a letter.

Dr. Jamison stated she would like to see a poster prepared that could be placed in the vestibule and halls of the churches outlining things such as locking your cars and not leaving items visible in a vehicle. She suggested asking an art student to develop a poster that could be placed throughout the community.

Mr. Williams stated it was important to get the pastors involved in addressing the safety concerns that have been discussed and providing public information.

Dr. Jamison stated the Board must be the ambassadors in distributing the information.

Ms. Heard stated most churches did not make general announcements and people must get permission to speak during church. She stressed the importance of working with youth groups and those who work with children, such as football leagues and summer programs, to address the safety concerns.

Mr. Tooley asked Dr. Jamison if she would develop a poster that could be distributed.

Dr. Jamison stated she would get with Capt. Blanchette in developing the poster.

Mr. Tooley asked that it be provided to Mr. Gross for his review.

Mr. Gross asked that the document be provided to Mr. Berger or Mr. Bryant and it will then be provided to him for his review.

Code Enforcement

Ms. Heard stated the grocery store at the corner of Cedar Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard looked magnificent. She stated the building had been painted and bars had been installed on the front windows. She stated the color blended in with the area and looked very nice.

Ms. Heard stated she was waiting for the purple and green building to be painted on Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard.

Mr. Berger stated staff was working with the property owner.

Dr. Jamison asked where she could find the information on what colors can be used in painting houses.

Mr. Berger stated it was outlined in the Land Development Code. He noted that sometimes exceptions were made for historic homes.

Dr. Jamison asked how someone would know the color that can be used to paint a house.

Mr. Berger stated staff tried to relay the information to the public but the homeowners must obtain an approval letter from the City before painting a house.

Dr. Jamison stated it took a long time to paint a house but often times nothing was said to the homeowner until it was complete.

Mr. Tooley asked if it was fair if a person did not know about the colors to be used and they used an incorrect color.

Ms. Heard stated when the grant painting program was began there was a color chart that was available of acceptable colors.

Mr. Berger stated the program was in place but there was an awareness issue.

Ms. Ford asked if a permit was required for painting a house.

Mr. Berger stated there was no permit required for painting a house, a letter of approval from the City was needed in order to paint a building in any of the Redevelopment Areas. He stated Jeanne Tolley provided the approval letter and grant information.

Mr. Tooley stated if there was no homeowners association, who made the determination and decided what color a house could be painted.

Mr. Berger stated it was outlined in the design standards in the Land Development Code.

Mr. Williams stated the question would keep coming up as to who could tell someone what color a house can be painted.

Mr. Berger stated right now, the City can tell someone what color can be used.

Ms. Heard asked if the City Commission could pass a law that certain colors can be used.

Mr. Gross stated the current requirements were adopted by the City Commission in the Land Development Code.

Ms. Heard asked if it could be broken down so that people could better understand what can be used and perhaps information could be provided in the newspapers on what colors can be used.

Mr. Berger stated Ms. Tolley will work with people on a color palette. He stated people may be confused if a general notice was prepared since it affected all Redevelopment Areas. Mr. Berger stated it could be possibly be included as part of the poster regarding crime issues.

7. Redevelopment Project Updates

Mr. Tooley stated the Juneteenth banquet was scheduled for June 13, and he encouraged everyone to attend. He stated it was an important date in southern

history because it was the date slaves found out the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed.

Mr. Berger stated presented information from the Utilities Department regarding stormwater projects. Since May, 2009, \$5,000,000 had been spent on stormwater projects in the Midtown area. The report outlined \$27,000,000 for future projects to complete the work that was proposed after the floods of 2009. Mr. Berger stated the recent rains filled the Nova Canal, which was the responsibility of the FDOT and he provided the Board with correspondence from FDOT regarding the canal.

Mr. Tooley stated Mr. Garcia talked about 11th Street, Reed Canal and Rose Bay and that was not where the problem was.

Mr. Berger stated the primary problem was south of Orange Avenue.

Mr. Tooley asked if the pump station on Bellevue Avenue was enacted.

Mr. Berger stated he would ask and provide an answer to Mr. Tooley.

Mr. Williams stated flooding was a major concern that was discussed at his Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting.

Ms. Heard stated the maintenance workers needed to make sure the pumps were on.

Mr. Berger stated the City had maintenance workers who monitored storm reports 24/7.

Mr. Tooley stated the City had spent a lot of money to get things corrected and he was concerned about a breach in the canal. The Butts retention pond did what it was supposed to do as did the other retention ponds, but the problem was with the canal that ran to the river. He stated the water needed to run to the west instead of the east. He stated maybe calls should be made to State Senators regarding flooding concerns and the Nova Canal. Mr. Tooley stated Mr. McLemore's letter and Mr. Garcia's response did not appear to be talking about the same thing.

8. Public Comments

Ms. Kaitlyn Powers and Lekeisha Roundtree spoke regarding Operation Taking Back our Kids. Ms. Powers stated funding had been removed for summer camps and Ms. Roundtree outlined a program they had developed.

Ms. Roundtree stated the age for crime rates for youth was dropping. She stated the program she and Ms. Powers had developed was a diversion program and would not take away from any program offered by the City. She stated she believed if the youth can be redirected, the crime rate will change for the area. Ms. Roundtree presented an outline of the proposed summer camp program. She stated the program involved fun times for the children but also workshops on literacy, team work, and social skills. She stated during the summer, most youth did not have guidance. Ms. Roundtree stated there were no free meal programs in the Midtown area. Ms. Roundtree stated her report listed the County summer camps and there was one at Palm Terrace School and one on Peninsula Drive.

Ms. Powers stated there were the Boys and Girls program at the Dickerson Center and the PAL program but most parents could not afford those programs. She stated she worked with the One Stop Work Center who would sponsor 25 children from the Midtown area. Ms. Powers stated the cost was \$35 per week and there was no cost for those who received a scholarship. She stated the program was funded but she did not have a building to use for the program.

Dr. Jamison stated the program was laid out and funded and asked if they had a place in mind where the program could be held.

Ms. Roundtree stated they had cash to start the program through the support of the businesses in the Midtown area.

Ms. Powers stated a church had offered to house 50 children but they had to have room for 100.

Dr. Jamison asked if the group can be divided.

Ms. Powers stated the program was developed to keep everyone together.

Mr. Williams asked if they were willing to sacrifice the program if they could not keep everyone together.

Ms. Powers stated no. She stated 25 students would receive scholarships and 75 would be paid by the parents. She stated the program would include tutoring from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by other activities, including dance classes.

Ms. Heard asked where they would like the program to be held.
Ms. Powers stated anywhere in Midtown.

Ms. Roundtree stated the Bryant Center had been donated to them for the dance program.

Ms. Tory Jackson, 243 S. Martin Luther King Boulevard, stated the dance program was being held at the Dickerson Center.

Ms. Powers stated Ms. Roundtree was asked to leave the Dickerson Center because she was a convicted felon.

Mr. Williams stated it would be difficult to find a building that would house 100 children at this late date by Monday.

Ms. Heard stated Commissioner Reed was in the audience and perhaps she could provide some information to Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree since City Commission approval would be required.

Dr. Jamison asked if they knew they would have 100 participants.

Ms. Roundtree stated they set the cap at 100 but they received over 200 applications. She stated they had obtained liability insurance and had accident waivers.

Mr. Tooley stated there were two locations available but they did not provide enough room. He stated he knew personally of 15 students that wanted to be involved in the program.

Commissioner Reed asked if they were willing to drop the enrollment to 50 in order to get the program started. She suggested they talk with the Volusia County School District to see if the program could be held at Turie T. Small Elementary School. Commissioner Reed asked if the 75 parents that had applied for the program had paid.

Ms. Powers stated not all had paid.

Commissioner Reed asked if the instructors had gone through background checks.

Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree stated yes.

Ms. Powers stated at the end of the program, each participant would receive a book bag of school supplies included as well as a pack of underwear and a pack of socks. She stated additional book bags would be provided for an additional 200 students in the community.

Commissioner Reed asked for background information from Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree.

Ms. Roundtree stated she grew up in Gainesville and was able to attend a community center during the summer.

Ms. Powers stated she grew up in Ormond Beach and was placed in several foster homes while growing up.

Commissioner Reed asked if they would be interested if they found two churches and could run the program simultaneously.

Ms. Powers stated that would be fine and each would be assigned to a church to run the program.

Commissioner Reed asked which church had offered to house the program.

Mr. Tooley stated the Choice Worship Center at the Mormon Realty Building had offered to house the program.

Ms. Roundtree stated the Mormon Realty Building was set up for church service so only 25 participants could be housed there.

Commissioner Reed asked if they had spoken with the owners of the old Shiloh building.

Ms. Roundtree stated no.

Ms. Heard stated she could provide contact information for the Shiloh building to Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree.

Mr. Williams asked where they could go from there and if it was something that would have to go to the City Commission.

Mr. Tooley stated asked if the Board could show support of the program in their community and if there would be legal problems if they did that.

Mr. Gross stated there was no problem with the Board saying they supported the program.

Mr. Williams stated that he supports the project but feels the Board should take time and look over everything.

Mr. Tooley suggested they get with Ms. Heard after the meeting to see who they can contact about using the Shiloh building.

Commissioner Reed stated she would give them her business card so they could contact her.

Ms. Ford stated she would make calls for Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree.

Mr. Williams stated he would also make some calls.

Mr. Tooley complimented Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree for the work they had done and he thought the program would come to fruition.

Ms. Marjorie Johnson, 122 S. Keech Street, stated she was impressed with the proposed program. She stated she attended a meeting earlier at the County and received a list of the locations where free breakfasts and lunches will be provided. Ms. Johnson stated she would share that information with Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree. She stated she spoke at the City Commission meeting and stated she was concerned that Martin Luther King Boulevard had not been paved. Ms. Johnston stated money was being spent by the City on Beach Street, on the pier, and for the museum and the Midtown area had been deprived. She asked the Board to do something to get Martin Luther King Boulevard paved and to have more sidewalks installed in Midtown since they were needed.

9. **Board Comments**

Mr. Williams stated he was impressed by the presentation by Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree. He stated it was an example of what they need to be doing as a community. He stated they will become an inspiration and a catalyst for the next dream and the Board needed to do whatever it could to support them.

Mr. McGee stated he had been watching the progress of the beautification of Granada Blvd., which was a State highway. He stated the Board and people in the community did not have input in development and International Speedway Blvd. would end up appearing second rate and it was disappointing.

Mr. Williams left the meeting.

Dr. Jamison stated the workshop was planned for the Midtown Board was not held. She asked the discussion of CRA's be scheduled for the August Midtown Board meeting.

Dr. Jamison stated volunteered to teach sewing as part of the program presented by Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree.

Dr. Jamison stated the fees for programs in Midtown were not conducive to potential users. She stated there will be many buildings sitting empty because people cannot afford the fees. She stated except for basketball, no one used the Cypress Street Center and the same thing would happen with the Scarlett-Golden facility.

Ms. Ford stated she was impressed with the program presented by Ms. Roundtree and Ms. Powers. She stated she would make calls and encouraged them to not give up. She stated she would speak with a school board member to see if there were any possibilities for the school district's assistance.

Ms. Heard stated she would sponsor and do whatever she can to help Ms. Roundtree and Ms. Powers in supporting their program.

Ms. Heard stated Johnson's Service Station was approved at last month's meeting and she was very disappointed. She stated things that were discussed had not taken place. Ms. Heard stated the Board approved installing the canopy and thought the old one would be removed but it was not.

Ms. Heard stated she was disappointed with the YMCA and she thought the City should have purchased the land on Derbyshire Road. She stated a swimming pool and land were available at that site and she heard the City Manager had the last word on the property. She stated she was very disappointed the YMCA would be using the Midtown Center.

Ms. Heard stated the Yvonne Scarlett-Golden Center should have been built in Midtown since that was where she was born and lived. She stated she had passed the center several times and no one was using it.

Ms. Heard stated she would like to have a workshop to discuss the CRA.

Mr. Tooley stated he would like the Board members to email Mr. Bryant on their availability for a workshop so a time could be determined when everyone was available.

Mr. Tooley agreed with Ms. Johnson's concerns about MLK. He stated one of the things he had talked about was getting high speed internet in the area. He stated the paving of MLK will take place but there was a process that must be followed.

Mr. Tooley thanked Ms. Powers and Ms. Roundtree for their fantastic presentation and for coming forth with a solution to a major problem. He stated he supported the program and believed it will come to fruition.

Mr. Tooley stated following up on Mr. McGee's comments, he was appalled that engineers could place a median down the middle of Granada Blvd. which was narrower than International Speedway Boulevard but they say a median could not be placed on ISB. He stated a median needed to be placed along ISB to beautify the community.

Mr. Tooley thanked Mr. Berger for providing information on flooding.

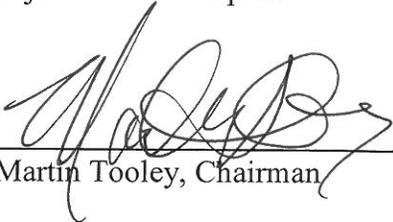
Mr. Tooley stated he was concerned about the fees for facilities in the Midtown area. He stated 65% of the residents of Midtown were unemployed and unable to pay those fees. Mr. Tooley stated having facilities sit empty was a waste of money. He stated there was a dance studio and recording studio in the Midtown Cultural Center but they were not manned and he thought the fee should be lowered so the facilities could be used

Mr. Tooley stated the community had to pull together and he encouraged residents to attend the Midtown meetings and voice their opinions. He stated the Board needed to hear what Midtown wanted. Mr. Tooley stated that something was decided, it was too late for them to voice their opinions.

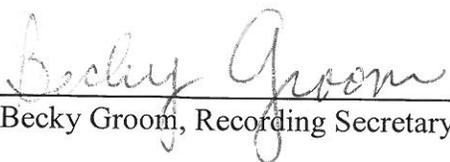
Mr. Tooley thanked Mr. Shanks for his attendance at the meeting and thanked staff for their support.

10, Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Martin Tooley, Chairman



Becky Groom, Recording Secretary