

**MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Board was held Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, Daytona Beach City Hall, 301 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida. The following people were present:

Board Members Present

Mr. Pierre Louis, Chair
Mr. Alphonsa Bush, Jr.
Ms. Terica Charles
Mr. Shawn Collins
Ms. Tangela Hardy
Milverton Robinson (Planning Board appointee)

Board Members Absent

Mr. Danny Fuqua
Ms. Valencia Stubbs

Staff Members Present

Mr. Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director
Mr. Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager
Mr. Ben Gross, Deputy City Attorney
Capt. Scott P. Goss, Daytona Beach Police Department
Off. Cortland Lampe, Daytona Beach Police Department
Ms. Sara Kirk, Neighborhood Services Inspector
Ms. Becky Groom, Office Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Louis 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. Bush gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mr. Louis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of November 12, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Ms. Charles, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2019, as presented. The motion carried (5-0).

6. Staff Reports

a. Police Department

Capt. Scott Goss presented the year end report which was included as part of the packet. Capt. Goss stated there was a reduction in crime in Midtown in 2019 by 12%. Capt. Goss stated the biggest challenge facing the city is the expansion of the city along LPGA and Williamson. Capt. Goss stated there were 11 homicides last year.

Mr. Robinson asked if the statistics from Midtown are comparable to those in the rest of the city.

Capt. Goss stated there are two districts in the city, one east of the railroad tracks to the beach and the other from the western side of the railroad tracks to the city limits. Capt. Goss stated the statistics are not comparable since the west side encompasses 2/3 of the city.

Mr. Collins asked why there isn't a comparative report of statistics throughout the city.

Capt. Goss stated the statistics are available on the city's web page and Page 1 of the report included in the packet lists the statistics for the entire city.

Mr. Bush asked what will be new in the Department in the coming year.

Capt. Goss stated the Department will be back to 100% full staffing.

Ms. Hardy thanked the Department for all they do and for the support they provide in the community.

Ms. Charles asked if the Department could offer a gun buy-back program in an attempt to get guns off the streets.

Capt. Goss stated at least one and sometimes two gun buy-backs are offered throughout the year and noted 80 weapons were returned in the most recent buy-back. Capt. Goss noted 90% of the car break-ins in the community are due to unsecured vehicles with valuables being visible.

Capt. Goss stated he spoke with Capt. Scott Lee regarding a report that was requested from the Board regarding a breakdown of statistics from the Code Walks held on the east side and west side. Capt. Goss stated that information is still being compiled.

b. Code Enforcement

Sara Kirk, Neighborhood Services Inspector, presented the staff report which was included as part of the packet. Ms. Kirk stated only 20 cases were opened in Midtown in December and 8 of those cases were rental inspections. Ms. Kirk stated the January Code Walk was in Derbyshire and stated the Code Stat meeting will be held at Bethune-Cookman's Civic Engagement Center on January 29, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Robinson stated he reviewed recent minutes of the Midtown meeting and noted Mr. Tony Barhoo had requested information on programs available to assist older citizens in addressing Code Enforcement violations.

Ms. Kirk stated Code Enforcement staff will let a citizen know what assistance is available.

Mr. Bryant stated he works with the Code Enforcement Board and Special Magistrate and offers assistance in addressing violations. Mr. Bryant stated he has also been invited to neighborhood meetings to let citizens know what programs are available. Mr. Bryant noted grant information is listed on the city's website.

7. **Election of Officers** – Chair and Co-Chair

This item was continued since the full Board was not in attendance.

8. **Redevelopment Project Updates**

Charles Bryant, Redevelopment Project Manager, presented the staff report which was included as part of the packet. Mr. Bryant stated many successful events were held during the month of December, including the Midtown Senior Prom and the Holly Jolly Christmas Parade. Mr. Bryant stated the prom queen was Mary Flemmings and the King was Jack McClairn.

Mr. Robinson asked how involved Bethune-Cookman University is in the Midtown Area. Mr. Robinson stated he would like to receive a report on BCU's engagement in the community or to have a liaison from the University attend the Midtown meetings, which would also be good publicity for BCU.

Mr. Bryant stated Bethune-Cookman will be hosting the Code Enforcement meeting scheduled for January 29, 2020, and this is the second meeting they have hosted. Mr. Bryant stated many of the Bethune-Cookman organizations are involved in activities in the community, including clean-up programs in the Midtown area. Mr. Bryant stated Bethune-Cookman provides support to the Midtown community during the holiday season.

Mr. Collins asked if there is a connection between grants and the Midtown Master Plan.

Mr. Berger stated the grants were formulated prior to completion of the Midtown Master Plan and there is no connection between the two.

Mr. Collins asked who goes out to promote projects in the Midtown area.

Mr. Berger stated projects are usually brought to the city through the private sector. Mr. Berger stated Mr. Bryant attends a number of retail conferences to talk with potential developers.

Mr. Bryant stated when he attends retail conferences, he takes copies of the Master Plan with him to let potential developers know what properties are available in the area. Mr. Bryant stated he has been working to try to bring a grocery store to Midtown and hopes that the removal of the former Police Department structure along Orange Avenue may generate some interest along that corner.

Mr. Collins asked if the Midtown Board holds strategy sessions.

Mr. Bryant stated staff receives input from the Board and there has been discussion about holding a workshop to set goals.

Mr. Bush asked if there will be a public expo for young people in the community during 2020.

Mr. Bryant stated the Police Department offers a lot of programs for the youth in the community and he is always open to suggestions for additional programs.

Ms. Hardy stated she feels there needs to be more programs offered for the youth in the community.

Mr. Bryant stated programs are offered but it is discouraging to create and plan programs and people then do not attend. Mr. Bryant stated the Police Department offered softball and baseball programs and was disappointed when people did not attend.

Mr. Louis talked about the Riverfront Park and the Midtown Master Plan. Mr. Louis stated funds have been allocated for the Riverfront Park and there are no funds planned to implement the Midtown Master Plan. Mr. Louis talked about encouraging small business development in the area and noted the CRA TIF funds could be used in Midtown.

Ms. Charles stated the Board has talked about holding a workshop regarding the Master Plan which has not been implemented. Ms. Charles stated there is a disconnect and what was discussed at previous meetings has not happened.

Ms. Hardy asked if the Master Plan can be updated or changed.

Mr. Berger stated the Master Plan is not an old document and typically such plans are updated in 5 to 10 year increments.

9. Public Comments

Sandy Murphy, 136 Park Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida stated the city's website is difficult to navigate. Ms. Murphy stated a group has formed called the Citizens for Responsible Development and they have created a webpage – C4RDDaytona.com – and noted all of the City's plans are listed at that website.

Linda Smiley, 357 Manhattan Way, Daytona Beach, Florida stated it is refreshing to see new members to the Board asking appropriate questions. Ms. Smiley stated Sandy Murphy worked with a group to bring a grocery store in Midtown and that has not happened.

Jessica Foreman, 1588 Megan Bay Circle, Holly Hill, Florida stated most small businesses do not have funds available to keep their businesses in operation. Ms. Foreman stated she feels there is a disconnect between the Police and the Midtown community. Ms. Foreman stated the Police Department may offer programs, but most people are not aware of them. Ms. Foreman stated there are no places in Midtown to hold community meetings.

Anne Ruby, 137 Park Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida stated she has a breakdown of the CRA expenditures which she can provide to the Board. Ms. Ruby encouraged Board members to talk with their City Commissioners regarding their concerns and noted the City Commission is the body with the power that can make changes happen in Midtown. Ms. Ruby stated a workshop would be a great place to discuss goals for the Midtown Board that could be presented to the City Commission. Ms. Ruby stated she would like the Black Heritage Trail to receive more publicity and to be a place for physical fitness programs. Ms. Ruby stated she would like to see the City Island Recreation Center saved and that would be a good meeting location. Ms. Ruby stated the Board should be asking for updates on the Cornerstone project that was proposed for Midtown.

10. Board Comments

Ms. Charles thanked everyone for their attendance this evening and welcomed the new Board members.

Ms. Hardy asked if a workshop could be held before the next Board meeting.

Mr. Berger stated he would check to see if it could be scheduled and determine available space.

Mr. Bush noted transportation is an issue for many in attending events in the community. Mr. Bush stated he has submitted his resignation from the Midtown Redevelopment Board and this will be his last meeting.

Mr. Collins stated he would like to schedule a workshop prior to leaving this evening. Mr. Collins stated items he would like placed on the agenda are the Master Plan, Board member duties, and the Board's approach to supporting the Master Plan.

Mr. Robinson stated he is the representative from the Planning Board. Mr. Robinson stated he feels there is apathy and a lack of engagement and feels the Board should hold their meetings in Midtown. Mr. Robinson stated the Midtown meetings should be advertised more aggressively.

Mr. Louis thanked Mr. Barhoo, Ms. Ford, and Mr. Bush for their service on the Midtown Board.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Hardy, to schedule a workshop on January 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the place to

be determined; and the alternate date for the workshop will be February 6, 2020. The motion carried (5-0).

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Pierre Louis, Chair



Becky Groom, Board Secretary