

**MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment Board was held Tuesday, March 10, 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. Danny Fuqua, Vice Chair
Mr. Shawn Collins
Ms. Tangela Hardy
Mr. Milverton Robinson (Planning Board appointee)

Board Members Absent

Ms. Terica Charles (excused)
Ms. Valencia Stubbs (excused)

Staff Members Present

Mr. Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director
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. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Hardy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Invocation

Mr. Fuqua gave the invocation.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. February 11, 2020 Regular Board meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by M. Fuqua, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting as presented. The motion carried (4-0).

b. February 25, 2020 Board workshop

Mr. Bryant noted Ms. Charles was not in attendance at the workshop and asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect her absence.

A motion was made by Mr. Fuqua, seconded by Ms. Hardy, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 workshop as corrected. The motion carried (4-0).

Mr. Louis introduced Billie Wheeler, who is the District 2 representative of the Volusia County Council, who was in attendance.

6. Staff Reports

Police Department

Capt. Scott Goss provided a Compstat report to the Board that is specific to Midtown. Capt. Goss stated crime is down overall by 64 percent so far this year. Capt. Goss stated crime is down by 17 percent for Part 1 crimes and there is a decrease by 24 percent in property crimes. Capt. Goss stated there have been only four burglaries in Midtown since the beginning of the year.

Mr. Collins asked if citizen involvement has helped in decreasing crime in the area.

Capt. Goss stated it has helped a lot and noted that most of the people in Midtown are good, hard working people who do not want trash in their community.

Mr. Fuqua stated the statistics on crime in Midtown have improved a lot since he has served on the Midtown board.

Mr. Louis stated most people think Midtown is a high crime area but the report presented by the Police Department indicates a different community.

Capt. Goss stated perception takes a long time to change but he feels we're on the road to changing that perception.

Code Enforcement

Sara Kirk, Neighborhood Services Inspector, stated for the month of February there were a total of 19 cases opened in Midtown. Ms. Kirk provided the Board with information on the number of cases that were closed in February, noting she personally closed 31 cases. Ms. Kirk stated of her 31 cases, 28 were closed in compliance and three were unfounded cases. Ms. Kirk also presented photographs of properties that were in violation before and after the corrections were made.

Mr. Robinson asked if there are grant programs available for residents to help property owners.

Ms. Kirk stated she offers whatever programs she can to assist property owners.

Charles Bryant, Project Manager, stated he attends Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board meetings and makes individuals aware of the grant programs that are available.

Mr. Louis asked if information could be placed in utility bills so people are aware of the programs available.

Mr. Berger stated he will ask if something can be placed in the utility bills.

7. Election of Officers

Mr. Louis asked that the elections be tabled until the next meeting since two members were absent this evening and Mr. Fuqua has submitted his resignation. Mr. Louis also noted there are vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Robinson stated there is a quorum in attendance and he did not feel the election should be postponed.

Mr. Collins stated he agrees with Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Gross stated Mr. Louis has served two terms as Chair and cannot be reelected to that office.

Ms. Hardy stated that she agreed that the election should be postponed.

Mr. Fuqua stated he will be resigning from the Board and new appointments will be made and he feels the election should take place once the new members are in place.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Fuqua, to table elections of officers to the April meeting. The motion carried.

8. Redevelopment Project Updates

Charles Bryant, Project Manager, stated people are attending the City's Technical Review Team meetings every week talking about different projects for Midtown, but as of right now, there are no new projects being developed.

Mr. Bryant stated he met with representatives of the Salvation Army and there is now a Streets Team in place in Midtown. Mr. Bryant stated he has also had meetings with the Daytona Beach Housing Authority regarding housing development and new construction programs; he met with FPL regarding assistance to residents in public housing; and also met with the Police Chief regarding the assistance being provided by the Salvation Army regarding the Streets Team, the bicycle donation program and transportation to recreational offerings for residents in Midtown. Mr. Bryant stated he also has routine meetings with the City's Community Development staff.

Mr. Bryant spoke about the 12 action items that were discussed at the Board's workshop regarding the Master Plan.

Mr. Bryant stated there were five approved grants in Midtown. Mr. Bryant stated two grants have been approved but not funded because staff is waiting on additional information from the applicant. Mr. Bryant stated five inquiries have been received and staff is waiting on the applications from business owners.

Mr. Bryant stated there will be a new service provided through Volusia County Health Department on Keech Street which will be called the Southside Health Zone.

Mr. Robinson stated he does not understand why there is not a grocery store in Midtown.

Mr. Bryant stated attempts have been made by staff to locate a grocery store in the area.

Mr. Berger stated the economy will not allow expansion into the area at this time but noted Mr. Bryant has attended several conferences in an attempt to attract a grocery store business to the area.

Ms. Hardy asked if there is a possibility that Midtown community gatherings could take place in the Midtown area.

Mr. Bryant stated last year, Commissioner Paula Reed coordinated a street fest on Mary McLeod Bethune but he does not know if there is such an event planned for this year.

Mr. Louis stated he is pleased to see the additional items placed on the agenda as was requested by the Board. Mr. Louis stated he would like to know how many new construction, homeowner, and business permits are issued each month in Midtown.

9. Public Comments

Anne Ruby, 137 Park Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida stated she feels the City Commission should set up a separate CRA Board so the Commission does not serve as the CRA. Ms. Ruby stated the City Commission is not effective as the CRA. Ms. Ruby stated Cornerstone proposed three sites in Midtown for a grocery store but Mr. Berger stated at a meeting that the city decided not to pursue those sites.

Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council, District II, stated there are two Corona virus cases in Volusia County and the individuals have placed themselves in isolation. Ms. Wheeler stated there will be an Affordable Housing Summit on May 13. Ms. Wheeler stated the ISB Coalition met on March 9, 2020 and discussed the roundabout at the beach access. Ms. Wheeler also stated the 2020 Census is also ongoing.

Husani Brown, 104 Mason Park Drive, spoke about murals along Mary McLeod Bethune in Midtown. Mr. Brown stated he was hoping to see more graphics around the area which will promote tourism.

Mr. Bryant stated the City does have a mural program and he will provide information to Mr. Brown regarding that program. Mr. Charles noted the Board would have to approve any mural requests which also must be approved by the property owner.

10. Board Comments

Mr. Fuqua stated he has submitted his resignation from the Midtown Board. Mr. Fuqua stated it has been a pleasure to serve on the Board, noting he may attend future meetings as an observer.

Mr. Collins thanked staff for the three-ring binders, but noted a three-hole punch is now needed. Mr. Collins thanked Mr. Fuqua for his service on the Board. Mr. Collins stated he would like a 3D model of projects that are outlined in the Master Plan that are visionary sites of what the area should look like.

Mr. Collins asked how long it will take to process an amendment to the Land Development Code.

Mr. Gross stated it can take several months.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Fuqua that action items be listed on the Board's agenda for follow up and listed separately as part of the staff report. The motion carried (4-0).

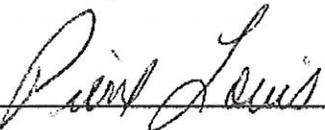
Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Fuqua for his service on the Board. Mr. Robinson thanked staff for the reports provided this evening and thanked the citizens that attended the meeting as well. Mr. Robinson stated there should be a Publix and a Wal-Mart in Midtown. Mr. Robinson stated the Planning Board agreed that Mr. Robinson could provide a report to the Midtown Board on actions taken at the monthly Planning Board meeting. Mr. Robinson read the items that were listed on the Planning Board agenda and noted what items had been approved.

Ms. Charles left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

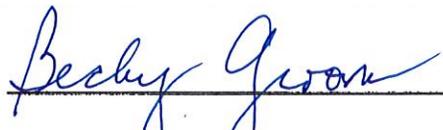
Mr. Louis thanked Mr. Fuqua for his service on the Board. Mr. Louis stated there were many things discussed at the workshop; and as a result, he has spoken with Mayor Derrick Henry who is agreeable to meeting with the Chair. Mr. Louis stated he also had a meeting with Sam Rogers who was the very first chair of the Midtown Redevelopment Board in 1980.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Pierre Louis, Chair



Becky Groom, Board Secretary