

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 20, 2016 | 8:00 AM | Con-Ed Human Resource Center | 714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Chair Richard “Dicky” Mopper, Presiding

Board Members Present:

Brad Baugh, Stephanie Bock, Barbara Cortese, Theodora “T” L. Gongaware, Tom Kohler, Richard “Dicky” Mopper, Kris Patel, Connie Pinkerton, Henry “Hank” Reed II, Victor Shernoff, Christine Wacta

Board Members Absent:

John R. Bennett, Adam Kirk, Jerry Lominack, Dawn Morgan, Stephen Palmer, Anne Roise, Gina Smith, Dorothy Strong, Taylor Watts

Quorum Present?

No. Information materials for agenda items requiring a vote were distributed via email. A quorum was established after two Board members that had been absent from the meeting submitted their votes to approve the minutes and the audit proposal.

Others Present:

Kevin Klinkenberg, Executive Director; Katherine Williams, Program Coordinator; Amy Brock, Marketing Consultant; Daniel Carey, Historic Savannah Foundation; Frances Colón, Historic Savannah Foundation; Manuel Dominguez, City of Savannah Economic Development Director; Alderman Bill Durrence, District II; Eric Curl, Savannah Morning News

I. Call to Order — Dicky Mopper

The Board of Directors meeting of Savannah Development and Renewal Authority was called to order at 8:00 AM on April 20, 2016 at 714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard by Chair Mopper. Chair Mopper welcomed Ms. Brock, Mr. Carey, Ms. Colón, Mr. Curl, Mr. Dominguez, and Alderman Durrence as guests of the meeting.

II. Previous Minutes — Dicky Mopper

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

III. Treasurer’s Report — Kris Patel

Mr. Patel indicated that there were no significant updates. Copies of the budget vs. actuals were enclosed. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Klinkenberg added that SDRA had produced a profit-and-loss report specifically for the Savannah Urbanism Series, and that the event had resulted in a profit of approximately \$1,000.

IV. New Board Members & Open Board Seats — Dicky Mopper

Chair Mopper indicated that there were four vacant seats on the Board of Directors, and that SDRA had received seven applications. He stated that the Executive Committee had been tasked with reaching out to each applicant to ascertain their knowledge of SDRA, their qualifications, and their potential involvement and commitment. The Committee would then submit its recommendations to the Mayor and Aldermen. Alderman Durrence added that a significant number of applications had been received, and that the Mayor and Aldermen were being thorough in reviewing and interviewing applicants in order to ensure appropriate appointments. He indicated that some members of Council were in support of establishing an attendance policy for appointed members, which would stipulate that members must be present for a minimum of seventy-five percent of meetings.



V. Audit RFP — Kevin Klinkenberg

Mr. Klinkenberg stated that SDRA had distributed a request for proposals (RFP) for its annual audit, which was required under the terms of its enabling legislation. The RFP had been sent to four firms. KRT was the only firm to respond, and had completed SDRA's audit in previous years. Copies of the firm's proposal were enclosed. Mr. Klinkenberg indicated that given the cost, the Board would need to vote to approve the proposal. He added that the vote would need to take place at the present meeting in order to keep SDRA on track to complete and submit the audit by the end of the second quarter as required. SDRA would have need of more regular assistance with accounting moving forward. Chair Mopper made a motion to approve the submitted bid for SDRA's annual audit. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Golden Broom Award — Katherine Williams

Chair Mopper stated the significance and value of the award, particularly for local businesses. He added that the Board needed to be more proactive in promoting the award in the community so that it could be presented quarterly and to businesses of a high standard. Ms. Williams indicated that she had been coordinating with Ms. Amy Brock to reach out to community organizations to ask that they promote the award in their marketing and communications. She encouraged Board members to submit nominations and to offer their ideas as to how to improve the award and SDRA's outreach. Ms. Williams added that SDRA had received a grant from the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) to fund the Golden Broom Award program. SDRA staff and Board members had been invited to attend DNA's annual picnic on May 10th, at which time they would be presented with the award.

VII. Committee Report Discussion Items — Kevin Klinkenberg

Copies of Committee Reports were enclosed. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Klinkenberg commended the Committees for their activity and involvement. Mr. Kohler noted the importance of partnering with arts-based organizations in marketing and promotions efforts.

VIII. Executive Director's Report Discussion Items — Kevin Klinkenberg

Copies of the Executive Director's Report were enclosed. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Klinkenberg stated that SDRA's first-quarter report had been submitted to the City of Savannah and would also be distributed to Board members. He added that the next steps in the process of developing a new downtown master plan had not yet been identified. Mr. Klinkenberg stated that following Mr. Shernoff's suggestion, SDRA would employ an intern from the University of Georgia Public Administration program. He added that SDRA staff had recently begun helping two business owners with the City permitting process in order for them to open a seafood market on Montgomery Street. SDRA staff had connected with the business owners when conducting outreach along the corridor regarding the Enterprise Zone program.

IX. Better Block in Starland, April 1st — Katherine Williams

Ms. Williams provided a brief overview of the event, and stated that the next Better Block would occur on May 7th in partnership with Historic Savannah Foundation's Preservation Festival. She added that the April event was well attended despite weather concerns, and thanked the interns and Board volunteers who contributed. Ms. Williams indicated that moving forward, SDRA would work to more effectively encourage the community to give feedback on the ideas presented at the events. The Authority would like to produce a tangible leave-behind, whether a temporary installation or a more permanent improvement to the streetscape, to remain on the given block following the Better Block event. Ms. Williams introduced Mr. Carey and Ms. Colón, who gave an overview of the Preservation Festival's Block Party on May 7th. The event would be free and open to the public, and would take place on Broughton Street between Whitaker and Barnard Streets from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Mr. Carey indicated that the Block Party would include hands-on demonstrations representing various organizations and



trades. SDRA had previously met with Mr. Carey to discuss how the Authority could participate; for example, SDRA could create a temporary, interactive demonstration of a new streetscape that could be implemented on Broughton Street. Ms. Colón added that the Block Party represented an opportunity to start a dialogue with the community regarding the Broughton Street streetscape and preservation. Mr. Klinkenberg added in subsequent quarters, SDRA would continue to work with community partners to adapt and implement the Better Block concept in other parts of Savannah. Chair Mopper noted the benefit of establishing partnerships with organizations such as Historic Savannah Foundation.

X. 2016 Sponsorship Plan — Kevin Klinkenberg

Mr. Klinkenberg stated that following the Savannah Urbanism Series and Better Block event in the first quarter, SDRA was in a better position to reach out to potential sponsors and would be putting more focus on sponsorship in the coming months. He added that because SDRA had already successfully funded several of its programs individually, moving forward the Authority would work to identify possible sources for annual sponsorship in order to bolster those programs. For example, with additional funding SDRA could implement the kinds of tangible improvements it would like to leave behind as part of the Better Block program. He asked Board members to consider prospective resources and contacts. Chair Mopper added that SDRA should reach out to community partners that may be interested in providing in-kind donations, such as construction or landscaping materials, to help produce the tangible improvements.

XI. Communications — Kevin Klinkenberg

1. Website—Mr. Klinkenberg encouraged Board members to visit SDRA’s new website. He indicated that a private section would be added to the site specifically for Board members to access and share information. Ms. Williams asked that Board members reach out to her with feedback on the types of content or information that they would like to be available in the private section. Mr. Klinkenberg commended the website for its improved clarity, organization, and functionality. He indicated that the website included live forms for the community to nominate businesses for the Golden Broom Award, submit feedback on events, and apply for programs and incentives.
2. Document Sharing—Mr. Klinkenberg stated that SDRA staff had been using Google Documents internally to collaborate on documents and to track and update certain programs. He indicated that moving forward, SDRA would likewise utilize the platform in its communications with Board members. Ms. Cortese suggested adding links for relevant Google Documents to the private-login section of the website.

XII. Innovation Districts & Opportunity on MLK — Kevin Klinkenberg

Mr. Klinkenberg indicated that over the previous months, SDRA staff had met with several community partners to discuss the creation of an Innovation District on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (MLK). He gave a brief overview of Innovation Districts. Copies of information materials were enclosed. The area would encompass an assembly of high-tech industries and businesses in order to facilitate their collaboration and development. Mr. Klinkenberg indicated that the MLK corridor, particularly near the I-16 flyover, represented an opportunity to create this kind of hub in Savannah; nearby entities such as Creative Approach, The Creative Coast, and Guild Hall were already engaging in tech-related enterprises. Mr. Klinkenberg indicated that several other organizations in Savannah had expressed interest in being involved, including Savannah Economic Development Authority, ATDC, and Georgia Tech. However, an integral factor in the success of an Innovation District is creating a sense of physical connectivity between the participating entrepreneurs. Mr. Klinkenberg indicated that while Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. is burgeoning in its tech-related activity, it lacks the infrastructure, mobility, and streetscape



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

features needed to support that growth. He stated that SDRA was in a position to make several contributions to the process. First, SDRA could help bring together the diverse stakeholders in order to organize a coalition that would plan and advocate for the Innovation District. Additionally, SDRA could identify the physical changes needed to foster a prosperous tech cluster, and could coordinate with the City to carry out these changes. In the long term, the Authority could also facilitate development and complete projects of its own in the area. Ms. Cortese suggested planning an informal networking event to connect the interested parties and begin to combine efforts. Mr. Dominguez suggested creating a kind of punch list at the initial meeting to identify relevant tasks and deliverables. Mr. Shernoff suggested engaging SCAD as a participant. Alderman Durrence noted the success of SCAD's Collaborative Learning Center, which is located on the corridor. Ms. Pinkerton suggested the creation of a Design Center. Chair Mopper noted the need for greater walkability in the corridor. Ms. Bock added that students at the proximate K-8 school were not provided with bus transportation. Mr. Klinkenberg asked that Board members reach out to staff if they were interested in being involved in the process.

XIII. Old Business — Dicky Mopper

No old business.

XIV. New Business — Dicky Mopper

Alderman Durrence stated that in the coming month, Mr. Charles Sisk would visit Chatham-Area Transit to deliver a presentation on Denver's regional bus system and use of Transit-Oriented Development. The tentative date for his presentation was May 25th. Alderman Durrence indicated that further information would be distributed. Chair Mopper stated that previous Board Officers and members should be approached as potential sources of support and involvement. Mr. Shernoff commended Ms. Williams for her integral role in SDRA.

XV. Adjournment — Dicky Mopper

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM | Minutes submitted by: Kris Patel

