

CLEARWATER DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
December 2, 2015 – 5:30 PM – City Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present:	Paris Morfopoulos	Chairman
	Craig Rubright	Treasurer
	Chelsea Allison	Member
	Stu Sjouwerman	Member
	Tony Starova	Member
	Thomas Wright	Member

Also Present:	Bill Jonson	Ex-Officio/Councilmember
	Jay Polglaze	Ex-Officio/Councilmember
	Anne Fogarty France	Board Administrator
	Geri Campos Lopez	Director, Economic Development & Housing Department

Absent:	Dennis Bosi	Vice-Chairman
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1. Chairman Morfopoulos called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and board members introduced themselves.
2. Citizens Comments: Items not on the agenda. No citizen comments.
3. Clearwater Jazz Walk Post Event Report – Jazz Holiday Festival representatives Gary Hallas and Steve Weinberger provided the report to the board.

Mr. Hallas and Mr. Weinberger presented a framed Jazz Holiday 2015 poster to the DDB and it was accepted by Chairman Morfopoulos.

4. Clearwater Business SPARK Presentation – Audra Aja, Economic Development Coordinator for the Economic Development and Housing Department, gave a Clearwater Business SPARK Presentation.

Member Sjouwerman asked Anne Fogarty France to get copies of Ms. Aja's presentation to members of the DDB.

5. Approve the Minutes from the November 4, 2015 Meeting

Member Wright moved to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:

“Ayes”: Chairman Morfopoulos, Treasurer Rubright, Member Allison, Member Sjouwerman, Member Starova and Member Wright.

“Nays”: None.

Motion carried.

6. Adopt October 2015 Financial Statement for Filing

Member Wright moved to adopt the October 2015 Financial Statement for filing. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes”: Chairman Morfopoulos, Treasurer Rubright, Member Allison, Member Sjouwerman, Member Starova and Member Wright.

“Nays”: None.

Motion carried.

- 7.** Year in Review Accomplishments – Anne Fogarty France presented an overview of the 2015 DDB accomplishments.

Member Starova, as president of the Downtown Merchants Association, has been asked by the association to inquire if they could be reimbursed by the DDB for the downtown map. The original map cost \$1,500 and the Downtown Merchants Association has the rights to the graphics. Board members agreed to place this item on the January 2016 agenda for discussion.

Ex-Officio/Councilmember Jonson questioned if the Wednesday Farmers Market was still active. Member Starova replied that it did take place and wanted to go on record to state that it is hurting downtown businesses on that day. Treasurer Rubright recommended the Downtown Merchants Association draft a letter to the city council expressing this concern. Chairman Morfopoulos recommended sending a letter to the Farmer’s Market first.

8. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Morfopoulos expressed thanks from the DDB to Craig Rubright for his years of service to the board and noted that he would be missed.

Chairman Morfopoulos advised attendees of events taking place in the next few weeks and thanked the DDB, the Ex-Officio members and staff for all their work this year.

9. Final Comments

Treasurer Rubright asked Ex-Officio members what type of person would be taking the place of Rod Irwin, who had tendered his resignation.

Ex-Officio Polglaze responded that they are looking for someone with a lot of energy, vision, team building skills with the capacity to bring the projects to completion. He personally, feels it needs to be someone with a lot of knowledge of our region (specifically Clearwater). He would like it to be someone successful in waterfront development.

Ex-Officio Jonson pointed out that the ULI Report recommended a full time person addressing the CRA. And Enterprise Funds. He also explained that it will be the City Manager’s decision. Councilmember Jonson hopes that he will consider having two people of national esteem that are energetic and dedicated as it’s a big job.

Ex-Officio Polglaze added that the City Manager can recommend a candidate for CRA Director but the CRA hires the Director.

Member Rubright thanked fellow members, the Chairman for getting the board in-line, the Ex-Officio/ Councilmembers and Anne Fogarty France.

Member Wright thanked Member Rubright for his service on the board. He reminded everyone about Miracle on Cleveland Street on Saturday, December 5. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a great 2016.

Member Starova thanked Member Rubright for his service on the board. He commented that there were no toboggan slides down the ice this year. He felt it was a good year for the DDB and thanked the Chairman and thought that the board was making more sense as a group.

Member Sjouwerman thanked Member Rubright for his service on the board.

Member Allison thanked Member Rubright for his service on the board. She stated her first year was a good experience. She noted that she would like to see more projects like the banners and lights.

Ex-officio/Councilmember Jonson had two updates and noted the recently TED talk Ms. Fogarty France forwarded to members per his request. And secondly, the owners of the Parthenon Building at the corner of Myrtle and Court requested that the Municipal Code Enforcement Board waive the fines that are accruing daily. Some of the fines will be waived if the building is demolished by April 2016. He added that he was happy with the board's progress. He thanked the Chairman and Anne Fogarty France and thanked Member Rubright for his service to the board.

Ex-officio Councilmember Polglaze stated that it was a great year. He looked forward to being able to talk to Member Rubright now that he would be off the board. He noted that next budget year the DDB would have an additional \$50,000 in the budget. He urged member to keep the momentum going.

Chairman Morfopoulos thanked everyone for their hard work.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.