

REGULAR DDA MINUTES

January 18, 2012

5:00 PM

Jack Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Chairman Jack Smith, Teresa Bonifield, Jessica Bills, Ed Smith, Cindy Paletis, Tom Sawdey and Mary Stanton.

Absent:

Also Present: City Manager- Doug Terry and Rick Pulaski-Nederveld

Approval of Minutes – Ed moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2011 Regular Meeting, supported by Mary. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Teresa moved to approve the Treasurer's Report in the amount of 13,373.76 seconded by Cindy. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business:

Nederveld Presentation - Mr. Pulaski presented the board with photo examples of projects they are currently working on in surrounding communities. Mr. Pulaski explained how they are also helping with economic development on how they can attract businesses and identify leakage going out of the communities. Leakage knows how much money is in your community and knowing how much of that money is staying in the community and how much of that money is leaving the community. Mr. Pulaski stated they have programs that help accelerate the process of starting up businesses and help identify the perception of the businesses needed or wanted. Teresa asked how do we capitalize and grow on what we already have in the downtown. Tom stated we need signage. Jack stated our first objective is to find young people who are qualified educationally and business oriented, so that we have someone that wants to actually start a business. Ed asked about the rehabilitation program which means the money can be used both inside and outside. Mr. Pulaski stated yes, it falls on the low and moderate income community list, but to qualify for this you have to be at least 50% low income and moderate income. There is still another way to qualify through job creation. You have to create at least one job from the grant. The board held a discussion with many questions on this type of program and decided to have Mr. Pulaski bring back a proposal for the board to review within the next month.

Flower's Update – Mary talked about having approximately fourteen flower pots in the downtown park on the bricks which would allow for low maintenance/upkeep around the pots themselves. For pots Mary is looking at something low cost but will last awhile in the weather. Mary suggested pots made of fiberglass and big enough to hold water for a week. So what Mary wants to know is how much money the DDA has and are willing to spend on pots and soil. Rakers are willing to give the city the plants for the pots. Jack stated as soon as you bring us some prices we will be able to make a decision on what we

can spend. Also, Jack asked the Clerk, Susan to do a photo of the downtown park and show in the photo the placement of the flower pots and bring the design to the next meeting to discuss.

Historical Photo's – Teresa stated that the slides have been sent in and they will send an email for us to look over before the final product is done. I chose the older photo's that are black and white photos for this project and I would like them to remain that way or maybe the antique look. Teresa gave them a deadline date for the pictures to be done which is the first week of April.

Downtown Business ownership Updates - Jack stated that some business transfers are currently being worked on but it is a slow process. Does anyone have any suggestions or ideas of people who wish to own a business? Jessica asked how can we set up a business not to fail; it's hard to have a business in a small town. What can go downtown and survive. The board talked about body shop, mechanics, bakery and candy shop. Ed stated that's a good question for Nederveld, what can survive here. Cindy we need to advertise we want new businesses maybe on our website. Tom stated we need to build on advertising that Litchfield is a great place to live and less expensive when it comes to services than other communities.

Flag Schedule – Mary asked when our snow flags will go up at the last meeting it was stated that when the Christmas Decorations come down flags go up. Manager Terry stated I will have them up tomorrow.

New Businesses:

2012-01 Façade Grant Application – New & Used Classic Auto Body - Teresa motioned to approve Façade Grant 2012-01 from Mr. Steve Burns, contingent upon approval of the DDA committee to approve the replacement of an acceptable front design/color scheme presentation from the contractor in the amount of up to \$5,000.00, seconded by Jessica. Motion Carried.

Manager Update – Teresa asked what was happening with the old Thriftway Building. Manager Terry stated that Mike Burns purchased the property and is looking into commercial plans to maybe sell diesel fuel, industrial and commercial storage, and maybe re-opening the Laundromat.

Bills for Approval – Tom motioned to approve the bills in the amount of \$553.18, seconded by Mary. Motion Carried

Manual Checks - Teresa motioned to approve a check to Litchfield Outdoors for their annual Tipp Up Festival in an amount up to \$250.00. Seconded by Mary. Motion Carried.

Adjourn – Tom moved to adjourn, supported by Cindy Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ballinger, Clerk