

## CLEARWATER DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

July 14, 2021 – 5:30 PM – City Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Morfopoulos called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**In attendance:** Chairman Paris Morfopoulos  
Vice Chairman Keanan Kintzel  
Secretary Caitlein Jammo  
Treasurer Festus Porbeni  
Ray Cassano  
Shahab Emrani  
Terri Novitsky  
  
Mayor Frank Hibbard  
Ex-officio Member Mark Bunker  
  
Assistant City Manager Michael Delk  
CRA Program Specialist Anne Lopez  
CRA Business Assistance Administrator Howard Smith  
DDB Attorney Elise K. Winters

2. **Approve minutes of the June 2, 2021, meeting.** Upon motion duly made by Secretary Jammo, seconded by Member Novitsky, and carried, the minutes of the June 2, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.
3. **Citizens to be heard regarding items not on the agenda.** Scott Sousa, DCMA, shared a poster for Sip 'n' Stroll with a special invitation to the Board for the event July 17, 2021, 6:00-8:00 p.m. The DCMA will return to the August board meeting with an update regarding their DDB funding.
4. **New Business Items**
  - 4.1. **May 2021 Financial Statement for Approval.** Upon motion duly made by Member Emrani, seconded by Member Novitsky, and carried, the May 2021 Financial Statement was approved unanimously.
  - 4.2. **Taxable Value Received from Pinellas County Property Appraiser.** Ms. Lopez stated that the Pinellas County Appraiser had raised the taxable value 2.19% from last year. The DDB budget is based on this number.
  - 4.3. **Aggregate Millage Rate of 0.9700 for FY 2021-2022 and Public Hearing Dates for the Proposed Millage and Budget on September 8, 2021 and September 15, 2021.** Ms. Lopez presented the requirements and the statewide TRIM schedule. Upon motion duly made by Secretary Jammo, seconded by Member Emrani, the Aggregate Millage Rate of 0.9700 for FY 2021-2022 was adopted. Chairman Morfopoulos set the public hearing dates for September 8 and 15, 2021.
  - 4.4. **Set minimum reserves for FY 2021.** Ms. Lopez stated the CRA's recommendation that reserves be set at \$50,000. Discussion followed, after which, upon motion duly made by Member Kintzel, seconded by Member Cassano, and carried by a vote of 6-1, the DDB minimum reserves were set at \$50,000.
  - 4.5. **DDB members to serve as nominating committee members for the October 2021 Election.** Ms. Lopez stated that terms will expire for Members Jammo and Porbeni at the end of this

year, whereupon Chairman Morfopoulos appointed all other members of the Board to the nominating committee and charged them with the duty to seek out and recruit qualified applicants.

- 4.6. PSTA Letter of Support.** Mr. Smith presented the drafted letter for the Board's approval and signature by Chairman Morfopoulos. Discussion included comments from Mr. Delk regarding the timeline and design of the new facility. Upon motion duly made by Member Kintzel, seconded by Member Porbeni, and carried, the Letter of Support for PSTA was approved.

## **5. Old Business**

- 5.1. DDB Funding and Financial Policy review.** Upon motion duly made by Member Jammo, seconded by Member Emrani, and carried, amendments to the DDB funding policy reviewed at the June 2, 2021, meeting were approved. Upon motion duly made by Member Jammo, seconded by Member Novitsky, and carried, amendments to the DDB funding application form reviewed at the June 2, 2021, meeting were approved.
- 5.2. Downtown Coordination Committee update.** Member Kintzel reported that the inaugural meeting of the group on June 30, 2021, was a success. He thanked the Mayor and Member Jammo for their support and assistance. Minutes will be available after approval by the committee at the next meeting, and August date for which will be announced.
- 5.3. Equity Committee update.** Member Jammo continues dialog started at the Coordination Committee with AMPLIFY Clearwater regarding events in progress, and with various neighborhood groups.
- 5.4. CRA update.** Mr. Delk, acting CRA director, stated that Market Marie continues to be a success, with its next date on July 17 rescheduled from July 13. Public art walk July 17, register online. Story Walk through downtown Clearwater continues through July. The latest mural to be completed, "Summertime", was finished Jun 25 at the intersection of Garden Avenue and Cleveland Street. Streetscape Phase III begins July 26 to be completed in January 2023 with kick-off July 20; weekly office hours with CRA staff will be at Nature's Food patch. More information can be found at [myclearwater.com/streetscape](http://myclearwater.com/streetscape). The street café continuation process was outlined (obtain an outdoor café permit, requires proof of general liability insurance of \$1M, by October 1, 2021). New businesses: In N Out Taco at 435 S. Myrtle, and Subway at the opposite end of that plaza will be announcing its grand opening soon. (See [DowntownClearwater.com](http://DowntownClearwater.com) for more information.)

- 6. Chairman's Report.** Chairman Morfopoulos shared a reminder of Sip 'n' Stroll on Saturday, July 17.

## **7. Board Members to be heard**

Member Cassano notices the cheerfulness downtown with Champa Bay celebrations.

Member Emrani asked about streets closed and beautification; Mr. Delk responded that internal discussions continue, also noting that the City Council will vote this month on the permanent closures on Cleveland Street, with concerns about security and aesthetics of the barriers being priorities.

Member Porbeni thanked the CRA staff for a great job, and he'd like to see more participation from the Board in downtown events.

Member Kintzel stated that the growth of downtown bars and restaurants is exciting, and noted the rumor of a Gummy Bear store coming to the 600 block.

Member Novitsky is excited about the growth happening in Clearwater.

Member Jammo commented on points of city-wide vs downtown street closure and sidewalk café seating, and welcomed volunteers to the Equity Committee.

Mayor Hibberd thanked the Coordination Committee for conducting the meeting and feels this will be a productive process, commenting that, with upcoming meetings creating a clearer vision, meetings might be necessary only semi-annually. Monday's City Council workshop was productive, and we could expect the Council to approve the permanent closures on Cleveland Street, as well as approving Imagine Clearwater to move that project forward.

Ex-officio Member Bunker stated that he'd visited In N Out Taco and had a great experience, and that he'd had a call from a constituent upset about access to Cleveland Street; Mr. Bunker suggested 'back door' parking and felt they'd solved the problem.

Chairman Morfopoulos reiterated the importance of aesthetics and signage at the barriers in the closure.

**8. Adjourned at 6:47 p.m.**