



CITY OF FOREST PARK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Council Chambers

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
Phone Number: (404) 363.2454

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

MINUTES

Angelyne Butler, *Chairwoman*
Nachae Jones, *Vice Chairwoman*
Jacklyn Faith, *Member*
Nancy Howard, *Member*
Tre Holland, *Member*
Dhaval Shah, *Member*
Eric Stallings, *Member*

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Chairwoman Butler called the Downtown Development Authority meeting on July 27, 2023, to order at 5:32pm.

PRESENT:

Angelyne Butler
Nachae Jones
Jacklyn Faith
Eric Stallings

ALSO PRESENT:

Ricky L. Clark, Jr., City Manager
Mike Williams, City Attorney
Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works
LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development
Bruce Abraham, Director of Economic Development
Charise Clay, Economic Development Staff Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of July 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the July 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Jacklyn Faith seconded the motion.
Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2. GA Main Street Application

Mr. Clark delivered the update:

- He is seeking the board's approval to join the Georgia Main Street Program. Over 100 cities throughout the state participate in the program. Mr. Clark, Mayor Butler, and the Executive Director of the GA Main Street Program recently toured the city to see if it is a viable candidate for the program. Being a member of the program can be used as an incentive when marketing the city to developers. A monthly reporting model is required as well as the designation of a Main Street Manager. The newly hired project Manager will be taking on the programming for the Main Street program. A membership program will be offered and through those fundraising efforts funds can be reinvested into the revitalization and beautification of Main Street.
 - Jacklyn Faith asked "What's the benefit of being a member of the program? And what's the cost associated with joining?" Mr. Clark informed her that the state of GA doesn't charge a membership fee to participate in the program. However, in order to be an accredited program and use the *GA Main Program* branding, an annual fee must be paid. The fee is normally around \$500. An additional advantage of being an accredited Main Street Community is that businesses have access to resources through the state.

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the Georgia Main Street application process. Eric Stallings seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Balloons & Blues Downtown Festival on Main (Hot Air Balloon Festival)

Mr. Clark delivered the update:

- The Balloons & Blues festival will be an event associated with the activation of Main Street. The idea is for residents to be able to ride in hot air balloons while listening to the blues and enjoying food & shopping from local vendors. The goal is to have at least 6 hot air balloons throughout the Main Street corridor.

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the Ballons & Blues Downtown Festival. Eric Stallings seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Arts & Entertainment District

Mr. Clark delivered the update:

- A few years ago, the City adopted an *Entertainment District*. Legislation will go before the Planning Commission to expand the area to include arts as well. The goal is to make seeing art throughout the community a normal occurrence.

5. Arts Crosswalks

Mr. Clark delivered the update:

- This initiative is another activation of Main Street. An RFP will be issued for the project. The intersections that are proposed are Main Street & Lake Drive, Main Street & Ash Street, and the crosswalk near the fountain on Main Street.

Nachae Jones made a motion to approve the arts crosswalk project. Jacklyn Faith seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Downtown Beautification

Mr. Clark delivered the update:

- He has been getting a myriad of inquiries and concerns about the beautification of Main Street. Based on his observations of the fountain area, there is no irrigation to keep the vegetation alive. He met with the Deputy Director of Public Works to discuss if irrigation systems had been researched and the previously collected quote were around \$100,000. Mr. Clark met with another irrigation company and the quote totaled around \$51,000. The quote for redoing all the landscaping by the fountain is around \$84,000. The meters

for pumping water throughout the area are already in place. A contract for landscaping and maintenance will come later after the initial overhaul is completed. The Director of Public Works commented on the monthly cleaning and maintenance of the fountain..

Eric Stallings made a motion to approve the beautification plans as explained. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(Executive Session may be called for issues concerning Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to end the regular meeting and enter executive session at 5:53pm. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to end the executive session at 6:55pm. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jacklyn Faith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm. Nachae Jones seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-1555.