



**CITY OF FOREST PARK  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 5:30 PM

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)

**Phone Number:** (404)363-2454

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**

745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

## MINUTES

### **I. Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Angelyne Butler called the Downtown Development Authority meeting for May 27, 2021, to order at 5:30 P.M.

#### **Present:**

Chairwoman, Angelyne Butler; Nachae Jones; Eliot Lawrence; Ed Taylor; Vice Chair, Steve Bernard, Lois Wright.

#### **Also Present:**

Mike Williams, City Attorney

Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director

Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director

James Shelby, Planning, Building & Zoning Director

Danita Hamid, Project Manager Economic Development Department

Kisha Bundridge, Economic Development Department Assistant

Kathy Warren, The Collaborative Firm

Geilia Taylor, The Collaborative Firm

Kenny Brown, The Collaborative Firm

### **II. Approval of Minutes:**

Ed Taylor made motion to group the proposed minutes for April 9, 2021, Special Called Meeting and April 21, 2021, Regular Meeting and approve as is.

Lois Wright seconded.

Roll call for approval. Motion approved unanimously.

### **III. Livable Communities Initiative Update:**

James Shelby, Planning Building & Zoning Director, made a presentation to the board to share the plans for the Livable Communities Initiative. Mr. Shelby was excited about the success of the last public meeting, on May 3, 2021, where there was substantial turnout from the community to hear the Livable Communities Initiative plan.

Mr. Shelby explained that we are currently in the Task 4 stage of the Livable Communities Initiative. The plan is to complete the hearings and have the plans in play by the end of June 2021.

The major goals of the plan are:

- The Main Street Linkage- the character of Main Street.
- Diverse Development- encouraging multi-housing types.
- Historic Identity-re-use of historic property.
- Connected Downtown-providing key intersection design and transit stops.
- Walkable Community-prioritize downtown as a walkable area.
- Inclusive Downtown-art installations to draw people in
- Quality of Life improvements.

James Shelby said we will need requests for proposals to get the best cohesive plan for development in the downtown area, including the plan to connect Main Street to Starr Park with a bridge.

Mr. Shelby is in talks with the Atlanta Regional Commission to get the project recognized and funded. Some of the implementation strategies are to leverage properties we already own and look to pay for improvements by working with the Georgia Department of Transportation on upgrades. The next step is to make a presentation before City Council.

Lois Wright asked when this plan could be put into action. Mr. Shelby informed the board that he is putting together Requests for Proposals now and since we are probably the last of the affordable cities in existence, he is expecting a lot of hits. Mr. Shelby added that we are also in a great position because the city already owns some property.

Steve Bernard said he likes the plans but worries that the city does not generate income. Mr. Bernard feels that the downtown property is limiting, and we should be concentrating on mixed use development to maximize tax revenue. Mr. Bernard said that we want business to draw residents and suggests the downtown corridor be entirely retail.

Mr. Shelby reminded Mr. Bernard that the plan he has developed and presented, specifically lays out plans for mixed use development, and that research and studies show that a thriving Main Street must also include some residential properties.

### **IV. Public Relations Preliminary Plan:**

The Collaborative Group shared updates on their progress and the project schedule, after having been awarded the contract to do public relations for the Downtown Development Authority. They shared that their main goal is to highlight economic development activities and

opportunities and get media coverage of some upcoming activities. They would like to enhance the relationship between The City and the community and attract interest from new residents and developers.

#### **V. Community/ Small Business Improvement Project**

*See URA Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021.*

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Ed Taylor made motion to adjourn the Downtown Development Regular Meeting at 6:27 PM.

Nachae Jones seconded.

Roll call for approval. Motion approved unanimously.