

Central Business Improvement District

Meeting Minutes

February 25th, 2010 10:00 a.m.

First National Bank 602 Garrison, 8th Floor.

Attendance: Chairman; Richard Griffin, Sec. /Treas.; Sam T. Sicard, Jeff Pryor, staff: Jayne Hughes. Absent: Bill Hanna, Bennie Westphal, Phil White, and Rodney Ghan.

Others in Attendance: Ben Boulden, James Reddick, Brandon Bird, David Hendrickson, Bill Black, David Kerr, David Harris.

Call to Order:

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from November, 2009 were presented. The minutes from the January retreat were also presented. Although the commission did not have a quorum, the commissioners read the minutes. Sam clarified that the \$6000.00 for the Park at West End was not actually in a separate account but that a hold on the \$6000.00 had been made to the regular account. The minutes will be voted on at the next meeting where a quorum attends.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's reports for December 09 and for January 2010 were presented by Sec. /Treasurer Sicard. These will be voted on at the next meeting with a quorum. Mr. Griffin stated that he estimated that the renovation would probably come in about \$35,000.00.

Director's Forum/Commissioners Comments:

Mr. Griffin mentioned that the building located at 701 Rogers had some bricks that fell onto the sidewalk. The building had been having some leaking problems and with the freezing and thawing the bricks fell off. No one was injured and we have blocked off the sidewalk. Repairs will be completed soon.

Mr. Reddick came to see the CBID on the project at 1120 Garrison. This building has been purchased by Johnson Mooreman Russell. They will occupy all of the upper level similar to the previous owners but the street level will be remodeled to house other employees of JMR. Basically not many changes will occur. They will cut in 2 additional openings and create a new storefront to the east. Drawings were presented. Nothing will be changing on Garrison. This construction will not require a variance so no action is needed.

Ms. Hughes asked the commissioners to review the retreat overview. Goals were discussed. She made the suggestion that the commissioners remember that the overview discussed the importance of selecting the right individual to work on certain projects on behalf of Downtown Fort Smith. Due to each commissioner having different connections these associations will be best used if matched to dedicated projects. Basically you will be orchestrating certain projects. Please refer back to these goals as we continue to make our way through the year and the accomplishments that Downtown will make. Ms. Hughes also handed out copies of the property maintenance code. She reminded the commissioners that during the retreat it was identified that the commission has a responsibility to identify properties which are holding up the progress of Downtown. Mr. Griffin reminded them to use the web site. Ms. Hughes also reminded the commissioners to take a look at the Bass Reeves monument project to fit in with one of their goals for Downtown art. Bill Black stated that he thought the committee needed an additional \$90,000 in order to get the monument completed. Then we would need to have it installed. Ms. Hughes introduced Corporal Bird and he introduced David Hendrickson as the 2nd person on staff to cover the southern part of the CBID.

The Park at West End will be opening in April. Mr. Pryor reported that Wednesday night the Ferris wheel was lit and that you couldn't get a table at 21 West End and also Doe's was very busy. Mr. Griffin reported that the lower level of St. Charles place has now been leased by an oil and gas company from out of state. The National Historic Site is undergoing some repairs and renovations to the building and also to the trail site.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Hughes