

Central Business Improvement District
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2011 10:00 a.m.
623 Garrison Avenue, 3rd Floor Planning Conference Room

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

Others in Attendance: David Kerr, David Harris, Wanda Freeman, Bill Black, Julie Moncrief.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from April 2011 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes with noted changes was made by White with a 2nd from Sicard. The motion passed with a 4 for, 0 opposed vote.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report for April 2011 was presented by Sicard. Sicard noted that there had not been a request to pay on the \$10,000.00 pledge for the Bass Reeves Monument. The motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by White, second by Pryor. The motion passed by a 4 for, 0 against vote.

Commissioner's Forum:

Hughes presented the first request for a recommendation of a project which will be applying for the CBID Tax Credit. As part of the requirements of the CBID Tax Credit the governing body of the district in which the project is to be completed must issue a signed resolution verifying the request. The CBID has to approve the project as a qualifying project under the required description in the Act identifying the tax credit. The first project for new construction will be located at 5th and Garrison. To explain; The Bill is now an Act however not funded. So we are actually applying for the Tax Credit as though it is funded to help move the Governor along with funding this Act.

Hughes read the resolution. Hughes stated that although not mentioned in the resolution neighboring property values will increase due to this project. This resolution will be now used as our guideline for future projects. The Motion was made to pass the resolution as presented. The motion passed with 3 for, 1 abstention.

Sicard mentioned that we gather the information which would show what amount of revenue gathered from Oklahoma. He said he thought it would be great information for the Governor to have in order to encourage him to fund this Act.

Hughes said that Harvel had told her that the Chamber and the University were working on gathering this very information. Also gathering the employment levels as to how many are employed here who live in Oklahoma.

Hughes reported on her visit in Little Rock with Paul Harvel. She said it was educational and interesting to hear how the City of Little Rock developed their Downtown area. Hughes met with Sharon Priest who is the Downtown Development Director for Little Rock and that it was comforting to hear they have many of the same problems that we have. In addition it was wonderful to hear other downtown representatives take note and recognize our progress here in Fort Smith. It was a great day with lots of information sharing. She also noted that Leadership Arkansas and the Arkansas State Chamber were having their annual meetings here in Fort Smith, staying in Downtown. She is also taking the new CEO of Wal Mart U.S. on the downtown tour on Saturday.

She asked the commissioners to take a look at the new and improved landscape in downtown. Due to a project lead by Director Weber we now have all new landscaping with knock out roses.

In regard to the project and improvements for the Compass Park area several of the commissioners suggested we take a look at closing North A from Riverfront Drive to North 3rd. Then make North B Street a 2 way street to 3rd. This way we could provide a nice walkway from the glass pavilion to the new splash park to the west of the Ferris wheel. This is just the beginning of the discussions for the improvements.

Hughes asked Julie Moncrief to follow up on the status of the actual dollar amount of the Bass Reeves Legacy Monument.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Hughes