

MEETING MINUTES
MERIDIAN DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING
September 22, 2014, 4pm, City Hall, North Conference Room

Attendees: Ashley Squyres, Anne Roberts, James Fullinwider, C. Jay Coles, Caleb Hood, Craig Slocum and Tammy de Weerd

1) **Downtown Business Association Update [James Fullinwider]**

James, in Joe's absence, provided an update regarding the last DBA meeting, which included the following:

- A. Board Makeup of Joe Kozlowski, Dan Basalone, Josh Everts, Corey Smith
- B. The membership structure will be finalized at the September DBA meeting
- C. Discussion of downtown events including Dairy Days, the Winter Carnival Parade and how they should be coordinated
- D. Potential for a future farmer's market once the DBA is better established and there is leadership around this event
- E. Invite the Mayor to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss ways the DBA should be involved with future events

2) **City of Meridian Update [C.Jay]**

- A. Old City Hall Update – The City is moving forward towards creating an innovation center. Discussions are being had with BSU and Rick Ritter amongst others. Funding opportunities are being explored through grants with the INL and Capital Matrix.

3) **Meridian Chamber of Commerce Update [Anne]**

- A. Steering Committee Update – Discussed how the Steering Committee will now be a formal committee under the Chamber's Economic Development Committee. And that the project priorities [Civic Center, new URD creation, and the Innovation Center] that the City presented at the last meeting are in line with the Chamber's 5-year plan.

4) **MDC Update [Ashley]**

- A. Main Street Island Project Status – Discussed how recent bids for the project came in much too high. Working with various entities to value engineer and to combine with the first phase historical lighting project. Expect to go to bid in January/February 2015.
- B. Housing Study – Working with Pegasus on a scope of work for a downtown housing study that will provide tactics and strategies for diversifying housing opportunities for downtown that would attract millennials and 55+. Expect a scope to be presented to the MDC board in October for approval.
- C. Auditorium District/Civic Center Study – Discussed the draft scope of work that Bruce, Anne and Ashley are working with Pegasus to refine. It would be a two-fold study. 1) The study and coalition building for the creation of an auditorium district

in Meridian. 2) To study the need and economic feasibility of creating a civic/convention/performing arts center. There is also discussion of adding analysis of a multi-use outdoor recreation facility into the study that may or may not be part of the civic center.

5) **ACHD Update [Ashley]**

- A. Update on Five Year Workplan and Pine Avenue – The ACHD Commission accepted staff's and MDC/City's recommendation to reallocate dollars from the East Third Street Corridor project to the Pine Avenue project from Meridian Road to Locust Grove.

6) **Future of This Committee Discussion**

A discussion was had by all regarding the role and function of this committee now that a DBA and the Steering Committee are in place. Concerns were raised as to duplication of discussions however many feel there is still value in having at the very least, a quarterly meeting to ensure communication between all agencies is occurring. The committee determined that monthly meetings were likely not needed however quarterly meetings were more ideal. The next meeting will be held at 4pm on November 17. Ashley will update calendars for the remainder of 2014 and for 2015 in the next few days.

7) **Upcoming Events [All]**

- A. MDBA – Meeting on September 26 at noon at COMPASS/VRT Conference Room
- B. Downtown Art Walk – October 07 beginning at 4:30pm at Initial Point Gallery in Meridian City Hall
- C. Trunk or Treat – October 29 at Meridian City Hall Parking Lot from 6:30-8:30pm