

Minutes of IDB Board meeting 3/3/2017

Present: Bob Gentle (Chair), Lee Webb, Steve McClure, Chase & McKenzie Chandler, Hubert Hinote, Tim Rosson, Will Carleton, Sherry-Lea Bloodworth Botoy, Ric Lacey, (and one other new person but don't know name).

Meeting started on time at 5:00pm

- Approved minutes from last meeting.
- Bob gave a quick background of the "Warehouse District" idea that has been in discussion, and how the Economic Development of such an area would benefit Fairhope – this was primarily for benefit for those that haven't been to all the meetings in recent months.
- Lee asked about a revenue source (possibly lodging taxes) to fund some of the ideas being discussed – Jack was asked to look into this previously but was absent to comment.
- Ric read the Mission Statement that was drafted. All concurred it was satisfactory.
- Discussion around the idea of whether this would compete with downtown businesses – McKenzie stated she had spoken to Alex Robinson who represents those business and they are in favor according to Alex.
- First need is sidewalks – see if FSTC can assist here? Better and more adequate lighting will also be required.
- Types of businesses to attract: Art-based, food trucks, business incubators, etc.
- Sherry is interested in seeing year round agriculture/ farmers market. Has discussed w/ Mayor. Possibly partnering w/ Auburn University?
- Need to include Rotary Youth Club – work on sustainability ideas – also good for grants.
- Will noted that this property is in the hospital overlay district and should be positive for this project.
- Will discussed recent talks with Bob Griffith (owner of majority of land – ministorages – in proposed area). Bob is not willing to sell piecemeal. Wants to sell all property as a package. It was further noted that there are two additional partners with Bob that might also be interested in selling.
- Will said he would further his talks with Bob about what we are proposing to see if he will possibly sell land.
- McKenzie presented some renderings of signage which were received positively by the board.
- Board decided to ask Jack to inquire with Goodwyn Mills & Cawood to see about getting some professional renderings done.
- Current proposed timeframe of late March to present to council is going to need to be pushed back as more work, research, and conversation need to be done.
- Bob said next meeting would be March 30, 2017 @ 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm