

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Special Board Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2012

Present: Charles Walsh, Lisa Burridge, Neil Short, Mike Stepp, Sona Rummel, Dick Munroe, Kate Sarosy, Brian Scott, Brandon Daigle, Randy Pryde, Renee Penton-Jones

Excused: Brettnee Tromble

Call to Order:

Chair Charles Walsh called the August 15, 2012 special meeting to order at 12:01p.

Charles began by thanking board members for re-convening to discuss rescinding the August 11, 2012 vote to approve a letter of endorsement for the new library and ballot issue. Charles explained that new board member and attorney, Neil Short, had reviewed DDA Bylaws and State Statutes and asked Neil to present his advice regarding the board's pending endorsement of the new library.

Neil began by referring to the fact that state statutes restrict the DDA's involvement in new development to within its boundaries. He pointed out that the proposed new library would be constructed outside of DDA boundaries. Neil also read Article VI to the board: "The Board shall not expend funds of the Authority or otherwise contribute to the advocacy of any political candidate or ballot question." He stated that the board was not to contribute to the advocacy of a ballot question, which an endorsement letter would do. He said that he felt submitting an endorsement would undermine the authority of the DDA and discouraged the board from doing so.

Kate asked if the board could advocate for a new library without supporting location or the ballot issue. Neil said he felt it would not be appropriate as it would still be interpreted as support of the ballot issue.

Randy asked whether a letter encouraging to the library to enlarge their current building or relocate within the DDA would be appropriate. Neil still felt that it would be speaking to the ballot question, as well.

Charles asked about polling constituents and sharing results. Neil felt that it would also fall into a campaigning category.

Brian encouraged that individuals on the board express their personal feelings regarding the library versus taking a position as a board. He said that the library is looking for advocates and recommended that individual board members pursue that avenue.

Mike reinforced Brian's position.

Motion to Repeal Letter of Endorsement in Compliance with DDA Bylaws Article VI ***Motion, Second, Passed (Dick Munroe/Mike Stepp)***

Neil suggested that the board consider enlarging their boundaries going forward.

Charles asked whether the board would like to send correspondence to the library, reflecting the outcome of today's meeting. After discussion and recommendations from Neil, it was agreed that a letter be drafted which referred to the board's inability to support the library ballot issue due to its' bylaws.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion, Second, Passed (Brian Scott/ Lisa Burrige)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10p.

Approved by:

Secretary's Signature _____ /Date: _____

Board Member's Signature _____ /Date: _____