

City of Trenton
Downtown Development Authority
Meeting of 1/25/2005

Minutes

1. Peter Cervelli, Better Hometown Manager (BHT-M) welcomed the new Board to their first meeting.
2. Attendance was taken (See attachment 1). All were present except for Director Harris.
3. The Board then introduced themselves to each other.
4. The BHT-M opened the session commending Board members for their volunteerism. He said, "I hope you all believe that volunteers are a vital resource to any community, because you are now a vital resource to the City of Trenton."
5. A handout was provided that noted the value of volunteerism. The handout were these quotes:
 - a. "Volunteerism is a tremendous economic force, but it is never discussed in economics or in business school." -- Walter Hoadley, former Chief Economist for the Bank of America
 - b. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
-- Margaret Mead
6. The BHT-M made the following points to the Board:
 - a. The Board does not belong to him; He is not the Board's leader.
 - b. The Directors are the leaders of this Board.
 - c. That the BMT-M works for them.
 - d. That he will be proactive, he will advise the Board and, will carry out their decisions...
 - e. They will decide how time and money get used.
7. The agenda for this session was the discussed:
 - a. Emphasizing the importance of attending Board meetings and any committee meetings to which the Directors belong.
 - b. Setting up a date for 1st formal Board
 - c. Handing out Support Binders
 - d. Electing a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
 - e. Getting Training and Visioning Meetings firmly on everyone's calendar
8. The support binders were handed out and reviewed.
9. The following items were placed on the calendars of the Board members
 - a. Supper Meeting, with State Officials, at Brock's Restaurant on February 11, 2005 at 6:30 PM.
 - b. State DDA Board Training on February 12, 2005, 8:30 AM to 4:30 AM at City Hall Commission Room
 - c. Visioning Session, with supper, for downtown stakeholder on February 24, 2005 at Dade High School cafeteria from 6 PM to 9 PM.
10. The Board discussed the need to appoint an attorney. David Smith of Rome was recommended by Ron Womack, attorney for City of Trenton, as a possible candidate. Mr. Smith is the DDA attorney for the City of Rome. Mr.

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Stephens would like to check into Mr. Smith's qualifications. Ms. York was concerned over the cost associated with an attorney being as far as Rome. This item will be place a future agenda item.

11. The Board also discussed the need to be insured as a Board of Directors against possible lawsuits. The BMT-M informed the Board that the City Clerk is checking with the City's insurance company. The status will be reported at the next meeting.
12. The Board then took a vote on several key motions. All passed unanimously:
 - a. Fred Stephens was elected Chairperson of the DDA
 - b. Sydney Lynch was elected Vice-Chairperson of the DDA
 - c. Lucretia Houts was appointed, by the Board, to be the Secretary-Treasurer of the DDA
 - d. "Robert's Rules", latest edition, was adopted as the rule for DDA meetings and Shane Ridley was appointed as the Parliamentarian of the DDA
 - e. Set the third Thursday of the month at 6 PM at City Hall as the regular meeting time and place for the Board
 - f. Scheduled the next regular meeting of the Board to be March 17, 2005
 - g. A checking account will be opened at the Bank of Dade for privately donated or earned funds
13. The Board then passed a motion to adjourn.

Peter Cervelli
Better Hometown Manager
City of Trenton