

Downtown Development Authority of Blakely MINUTES

**Monday, July 24, 2023
5:30 pm
Alexander Building
Bynum Conference Room**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beau Clenney, Brad Clenney, Edwin James, Jennifer Mulkey, Franklin Ford, and Heather Allred.

ABSENT: Dave Atkins

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Susanne Reynolds, Celia Bostwick, Vicki Ford, & Jan Barron.

Susanne Reynolds, DDA Director, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Edwin James opened the meeting with prayer.

- **MINUTES:** Brad Clenney made a motion to approve minutes from the June 26, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Franklin Ford. All voted in favor.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Since the DDA has only been activated since June 6th, there were no financials to report at the time.
- **OLD BUSINESS:** Dave Atkins received and accepted the nomination for interim chair via virtual confirmation. Motion was made by Brad Clenney and seconded by Jennifer Mulkey. All voted in favor. Jennifer Mulkey received and accepted the nomination for interim vice chair. Motion was made by Heather Allred, and seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor. Susanne Reynolds received and declined the nomination for interim secretary-treasurer. Franklin Ford received and accepted the nomination for interim secretary-treasurer. Motion was made by Beau Clenney, seconded by Jennifer Mulkey. All voted in favor.

A motion was made by Heather Allred to open the first Blakely DDA banking account with One South Bank, seconded by Brad Clenney. All voted in favor.

- **NEW BUSINESS:** A discussion was had on the creation of the Blakely DDA bylaws and mission statement. Example bylaws and mission statements from other regional communities were given to the board for review. Franklin Ford will compile a list of recommendations for bylaws and mission statements to present to the board at the next meeting.

Each board member was asked to complete a Blakely DDA application to be filed in the DDA office, 214 Court Square.

- **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Blakely DDA is now registered and in compliance with the Department of Community Affairs.
- Rural Zone application is in good shape. Susanne spoke with the RZ program chair at DCA and she offered great feedback on the application and Downtown Master Plan. Susanne is in the process of editing it based on her feedback. She will review it again this Friday. The application will be mailed on August 16.
- ECG Bus Tour: The final itinerary was submitted by Susanne Reynolds and the City last week. The Mayor and Susanne will ride the bus with the project managers and give a brief tour. They are only in town for an hour. They are taking them to Brewers Manufacturing, a driving tour of the industrial park and Court Square/Downtown. The project managers are interested in manufacturing/industrial, so that's why Brewers Manufacturing was asked to give a tour of their facility. They manufacture farm implements and have expanded into hunting dog boxes.
- Still in need of a "Blakely-branded" take-away item for the project managers (25 people). Peanut Proud does not have any items with "Blakely" on them. Blakely Feed & Seed hats were recommended. They are advertised at \$14.95 each.
- Next month, Susanne is meeting with Amanda Glover and Steve O'Neal with the City of Bainbridge to discuss the Historical Preservation Commission. They are going to help guide the commission as it gets started. As soon as the HPC has its regular meetings scheduled, Susanne will let the Board know those dates as it will be very important for the DDA and HPC to be on the same page as the community begins its downtown development and revitalization journey.
- To be effective in its efforts, the DDA needs to make sure it is on the same page & communicates well with the City and its Commissions (Planning & Historical).

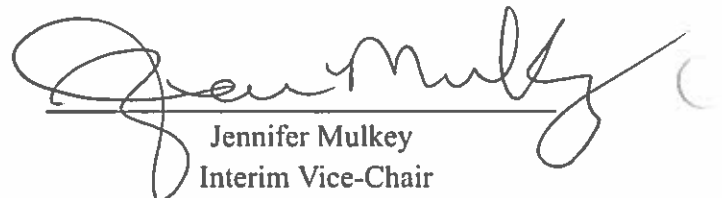
- **OTHER DISCUSSIONS:** Franklin Ford will begin compiling recommendations regarding DDA branding (website/email domain name, logo) these will be added to the August agenda for the board's consideration. It was also recommended the Blakely DDA get on the City Council agenda for August to request funding (Tuesday, August 1st) since the city will be working on the FY24 budget soon.

Jan Barron was introduced as a Historical Preservation Commission member to the DDA by Susanne Reynolds. There were no public comments. A motion was made by Brad Clenney to adjourn, seconded by Franklin Ford. All voted in favor.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Susanne Reynolds, Blakely DDA Director.



Dave Atkins
Interim Chair



Jennifer Mulkey
Interim Vice-Chair