

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Perry Johnston, Co- Chairman
Roger McVeigh
Roger Schaal
Virginia Panico
Gloria Sellers
Kevin Boucher
Roger McVeigh
Frank Garner
Peter Wagner
Vivian Perez, Administrative Assistant Mayor and City Commission

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

There were no minutes at this meeting for approval.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley stated that he would like to get IBI Group's Presentation before the City Commission at one of its meeting. Chairman Weekley would also like to ask the City Commission go out for RFQ's. Chairman Weekley believes there should be public input in the process.

Peter Wagner mentioned to the Committee that he had a family reunion and they're comments about Duval Street was that it was spectacular and believes that Duval Street can use improvements but try not to loose some of its eclectic soul. Mr. Wagner stated that he was impressed with IBI Group's Presentation and would like to see others but thinks they wanted to turn this into Hollywood Beach/Coconut Grove cookie cutter look.

Chairman Weekley explained that IBI Group was not asked to look at Duval Street. Chairman Weekley stated that Duval Street Committee's intention is not to change the heart, soul and the character of Duval Street but what can DSC do to make it better without making it look like South Beach, Hollywood Beach (that cookie cutter look). Chairman Weekley wants to be able to see Duval Street continue with its internationally known character and funkiness of Duval Street but at the same time they could put a coat of paint on it.

Chairman Weekley believes that if the Commission goes along with the RFQ's and the way the economy is he believes that there will be several companies submitting proposals.

Roger McVeigh referring the RFQ, if there is some sort of funding strategy before the time is spent and it could get expensive. Chairman Weekley believes that the proposal would probably address way in which the City can fund the project.

Frank Garner agrees with the comments that have been made about the funkiness of Key West but that he misses some of the old charm of Key West. Mr. Garner mentioned talking to a City Commissioner about bringing in more Art into the concept. Mr. Garner believes that there are small things that can be done to improve the look and the ambience of the town artistically without having to hire a company.

Kevin Boucher thinks a deeper point is that Key West needs to truly get back to the spirit that is the young adult's i.e. young entrepreneurs. Mr. Boucher mentioned Key West is missing a subculture of people that have been replaced by Eastern-European kids who are easy to train, beautiful, and they are only here to make some money and then go back hometowns and have no roots in Key West. Mr. Boucher believes the City of Key West get American kids back and bring back the excitement. Mr. Boucher thinks this is possible if the City of Key West had rent stabilization apartments.

Virginia Panico suggested first the City of Key West goes out for RFQ's once you have your RFQ and you get the necessary information out of it then build your RFP. Ms. Panico recommends that the Committee try to get the gum off the sidewalks and wash down the streets, trim the trees, enforce the panhandler and the homeless. Ms. Panico thinks a little bit of clean up and paint it will go along way.

Roger Schaal mentioned that the City of Key West has already started cleaning the sidewalks and the streets. Mr. Schaal has noticed Key West Police Officers out of uniform and catching the panhandlers of guard. Mr. Schaal does think that the City equipment needs to be upgraded.

Peter Wagner mentioned a few things that can be done without consultants. Mr. Wagner stated that the garbage is placed on Duval Street on Friday nights for pick-up and suggested changing the pick up date. Mr. Wagner agrees that Duval Street does not need to be reinvented it just needs to be polished and cleaned up.

Chairman Weekley mentioned that Clean and Green Committee's is focusing on the cleanliness of Duval Street.

There was a discussion concerning the contract for garbage pick up and how the contract with Waste Management is expiring and that the date for garbage pick up Duval Street can be negotiated with a new contract.

Peter Wagner asked if the Committee could ask the City of Key West when negotiating a new contract for garbage service to consider date change for garbage pick up on Duval Street.

Frank Garner mentioned that a young friend of his told him that he was thinking of leaving Key West because he is really disappointed in the town and that there is no longer a sense of community. Mr. Garner stated that this young man is one of those young entrepreneur types that Kevin Boucher stated we want to see back in the town.

Chairman Weekley asked Roger McVeigh and Perry Johnston to research and draft an RFQ. Chairman Weekley would like to discuss it the draft at the next meeting. Chairman Weekley stated you can find some samples of RFQ's on the City's website. Perry Johnston stated that he would work on it since Roger McVeigh stated that he has spread himself thin with his other meetings and projects.

Chairman Weekley asked Vivian Perez to draft a letter to the City Manager requesting that when a garbage company is selected and negotiations begin on the contract that the days of garbage pick up within the business district is addressed.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 3:51 p.m.

(Recordings of the meetings are maintained with the Executive Aide to the Mayor and Commissioners)