

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Christine Russell
Perry Johnston
Frank Garner
Janet Kelly
Raviv Grinberg
Dianne Zoloton
Dan Strosnider
Virginia Panico
Tom Savage
Michael Marsh
Vivian Perez, City of Key West Mayor and City Commissioners Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley asked for motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2008. There was a motion and a second but I am unable to here in the audio who made the motions. The Chairman asked if everyone was in favor, the response was unanimous.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley gave an overview of the meeting that was held at La Te Da with the Business Owner of Upper Duval Street regarding the street closure. It was decided to close Duval Street between Truman Avenue and United Street on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Chairman Weekley reported that the Business Owners of upper Duval Street would like to close the street the first Saturday of each month for 6 months. Chairman Weekley advised them that it would be difficult to sell to Commission for six months and they should try a couple weeks at a time at the beginning.

The Chairman asked that Commissioner Gibson request a resolution for the street closure on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., the Chairman also said that the resolution should say that there will be no street vendors, no automobiles, only pedicabs and bikes.

The Chairman stated that the one issue that came up during the meeting was the electric cars rental place in the area and they were concerned about their customers returning their electric cars and getting out of the area with their personal cars. The Chairman suggested using the one-way street on the opposite direction just during the hours of the street closure. Tom Savage explained that it is not a street that it is an alley/drive-way. Tom

Savage stated that the alley belongs to the business but there is a conditional use is that one way drive in and one way drive out. Chairman Weekley asked that the resolution also exempts 1020 Duval Street of their ingress/egress conditional use during the hours of the street closure.

Chairman Weekley also mention that the galleries once a month have been putting together to do a stroll on a portion of Duval with every full moon—regardless of the day of the week and calling it the Full Moon Howl.

Chairman Weekley stated that another one of the things discussed was that the merchants would each get different colors of umbrellas and chairs to add to the ambiance of the event.

Chairman Weekley mentioned that there was a discussion about the weekend of Fantasy Fest but they forgot about Goombay which is such a local event it is believed that it would be in competition with each other. Chairman Weekley suggested not asking for those two weekends and begins again after Fantasy Fest.

Chairman Weekley asked that the resolution is for Saturday, October 4, and Saturday, October 11.

It was discussed that there was a compromise from the six months request to a three months request. There was a discussion on the dates that were to be specified on the resolution.

It was brought up that there were other events happening during the moths of November and December. Virginia Panico suggested looking on the Chamber's calendar of events to determine if there were going to be any conflicts with other events.

Chairman Weekley suggested just asking for the first two Saturday's in October and then get a second resolution with the other dates after there is another discussion with the business owners.

Christine Russell asked when the second resolution would be presented to the Commission. Chairman Weekley replied sometime in August.

Chairman Weekley asked what the next thing for the Committee to tackle since the street closure is underway.

Frank Garner thought that the Committee still had to come up with a name for the street closure. Chairman Weekley stated that it was the business owners who were gong to come up with the name.

Christine Russell began to discuss the statistics on the survey that was done on Duval Street.

Chairman Weekley suggested the beautification of Duval would be the easiest but the most challenging because the City of Key West has no funds. The Committee would have to find ways to find the funds through grants or donating trees in memory of someone.

Perry Johnston remembers that the Committee was going to ask Carolann Sharkey to attend a meeting along with her friend that attended the summit. Chairman Weekley explained that the gentleman was not going to do a planning, his intent was to show what he did on Hollywood Blvd. /Hollywood in their downtown section.

Chairman Weekley talked about having a competition/contest. Virginia Panico suggested the use of architectural or landscaping students as a project for school.

Dianne Zoloton believes that cleanliness should be addressed with the Committee. Chairman Weekley mentioned that the City of Key West already has another Committee the Clean and Green Committee which is focusing on Duval Street.

Frank Garner suggested starting small with some suggestions of improvement and work towards an end result. Frank Garner thinks that lower Duval Street can change the way the building look like by freshening up i.e. paint. Mr. Garner believes that if one building changes the way it looks, it would have a trickling effect on the other buildings.

Dianne Zoloton discussed the delivery truck ordinance and those trucks contribute to the dirt and noise on Duval Street. It was suggested that the Committee look at the delivery truck ordinance and maybe make some suggested changes. Chairman Weekley asked Vivian Perez to get a copy of the Ordinance to the Committee.

There was a discussion on the different ways to generate money i.e. grants, corporate donations, citizens and businesses making donations, and foundations. Some of the foundations mentioned were Rodel, Dogwood, Trophia and Ekards.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 2:45 p.m.

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