

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Christine Russell
Perry Johnston
Frank Garner
Janet Kelly
Kyle Caskey
Dan Strosnider
Cynthia G. Domenech, City of Key West Landscape Department
Amy Kimball-Murley, City of Key West City Planner
Barry Gibson, City Commissioner
Vivian Perez, City of Key West Mayor and City Commissioners Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley asked for motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2008. It was motioned by Perry Johnston to approve the minutes and seconded by Janet Kelly. The Chairman asked if everyone was in favor, the response was unanimous.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley introduced Amy Kimball-Murley and Cynthia Google Domenech to the Committee. Chairman Weekley explained that both ladies were invited to attend the meeting in order to discuss several ideas and concerns that the Committee has.

Chairman Weekley explained to Ms. Kimball-Murley what the Committee is envisioning for Duval Street. Chairman Weekley was wondering if Jim (Amy's husband) and have students or teachers would take the project on as a class assignment.

Ms. Kimball-Murley asked if this would be for the entire Duval Street corridor (end to end). Chairman Weekley replied by saying yes.

Chairman Weekley stated to Ms. Kimball-Murley that ultimately the Committee has no set agenda and would like to look at alternatives and then make a decision on what to present to the Commission.

Chairman Weekley informed Ms. Kimball-Murley and Ms. Domenech about the street closure on the upper end of Duval Street between Truman and United Street on Saturday, October 4 and Saturday, October 11. Chairman Weekley explained it would be like a sidewalk café.

Ms. Kimball-Murley asked how long Duval Street was. Mr. Cakey and Chairman Weekley both answered and said it was a mile and a quarter long.

Ms. Kimball-Murley asked questions regarding the criteria, guidelines and back ground information for the students. Ms. Kimball-Murley

The Committee basically is looking for conceptual physical design that it is tied to planning concepts and focus on probably more of an urban design as opposed to strictly architecture or planning.

Kyle Caskey mentioned that one concept to use is that Duval Street is the longest street in the world since it is the one street that starts at on the Gulf of Mexico and ends at the Atlantic Ocean.

Ms. Kimball-Murley discussed the student making a trip to Key West and research Duval Street the City offered a camp site at the Indigenous Park and Mr. Boucher offer lunch to the students at Margaritaville.

Frank Garner mentioned watching a report on NBC News about Cities encouraging bicycle traffic because of the going green concept (bicycle pedestrian concept); Mr. Garner suggested the students researching those ideas/concepts and using some of the other Cities ideas. Mr. Garner stated that this is one way to a solution to parking problem.

Christine Russell asked if there has ever been a traffic study done on Duval Street. Chairman Weekley said yes but that he was not sure when the last one was done.

Christine Russell stated that she would like to conduct her own traffic study on Duval Street.

Kyle Caskey would like the arts incorporated in the concepts.

Chairman Weekley asked Commissioner Gibson about the resolution for the street closure on the Upper end of Duval Street for Saturday, October 4 and Saturday, October 11, 2008. Commissioner Gibson reported that he is waiting to speak to Shawn Smith, City Attorney about sponsoring the Resolution for the August 5, 2008 City Commission Meeting. Commissioner Gibson stated that Mr. Smith is out of town until Monday.

Commissioner Gibson suggested to the Committee contacting the City Commissioner and the Mayor and informed them what the Committee is doing with the resolution.

Commissioner Gibson stated maybe assigning one committee member for each City Commissioner and the Mayor.

Kevin Boucher requested talking points so that everyone is on the same level.

Chairman Weekley thought it was a good idea to visit with a Commissioner. Chairman Weekley stated that the talking points will be determined once the resolution is drawn up.

Chairman Weekley stated that one of the other issue the Committee is beginning to look into is the landscaping of Duval Street. Chairman Weekley asked Ms. Domenech to tell the Committee what the City is doing and where they are at with the landscaping issue on Duval Street.

Cynthia Google Domenech, City Landscape Coordinator Inspector and Urban Forestry Program Manager she stated that for years the City of Key West has been trying to the plants back on Duval Street that were destroy during the hurricane. Ms. Domenech stated that there are 165 planter spaces on Duval Street there will be 36 of them planted that have not trees right now.

Chairman Weekley asked what types of trees were being planted. Ms. Domenech began to read the typed of trees off of her list.

Commissioner Gibson asked if the trees were young, medium or mature. Ms. Domenech said that she will also state the size of the trees.

Chairman Weekley asked if these trees will provide shades. Ms. Domenech stated that some of the trees will provide shade.

Ms. Domenech also reported that they also have to follow the ADA requirements when planting/replanting trees.

Ms. Domenech gave the Committee her estimate on the cost the 36 trees was \$16,000.00 and that's only planting, not including the creates. Ms. Domenech reported that the cost for 165 creates would be \$60,000.00.

Ms. Domenech mentioned to the Committee some of the issues the City of Key West has when they plant trees. Ms. Domenech explained that people purposely trim the trees so much that they kill the trees. Ms. Domenech stated that store owners come out of the businesses and yell and scream at City staff for planting trees in front their stores or signs.

Chairman Weekley asked if someone wanted to donate or purchase a tree if Ms. Domenech has the ability to do it. Ms. Domenech stated that the City of Key West can accept it as a donation. Chairman Weekley suggested the Tropia Foundation, Chairman Weekley mentioned that Sam Tropia is the past has mentioned the donation of trees to the City of Key West.

Janet Kelly asked who was going to do the maintenance of the trees. Ms. Domenech stated that the Landscaping Department only has a staff of 6 including her. Ms.

Domenech stated that out of the 6 employees only 3 to do all of the planting projects and the maintenance.

Dan Strosnider (who works in Owen Trepanier's firm) mentioned an idea they had in respect to their clients where they will donate/adopt a tree along with their projects. Mr. Strosnider stated that he would need an estimate on the cost of the tree including maintaining and watering the trees. Ms. Domenech replied by stating that there is a way to evaluate the cost of a tree and what it cost the City to maintain.

Kyle Caskey asked Ms. Domenech if he should ask Mr. Sam Tropia to get in touch with her so that they could discuss the tree planting. Ms. Domenech said that she would be ready to speak to him when he is available.

Frank Garner suggested an Ordinance prohibiting the store owner from damaging the trees on their property. Several Committee members stated that the property belongs to the City and therefore did not have to get permission from the store owners.

Dan Strosnider suggested that at the next meeting the Committee discuss the difference between revitalization and pedestrianization. Mr. Strosnider believe that there definitely a difference between the two. Chairman Weekley agrees that revitalization is the wrong term and suggested "different vision for Duval" or "different character for Duval" would be more appropriate.

Chairman Weekley mentioned that these demonstrations are to find out what the issues and the community response.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

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