

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Perry Johnston, Co-Chairman
Roger McVeigh
George Fernandez
Kevin Boucher
Bill Ehring
Lesley Greene
Betsy Greene
Francine Bolduc
Christine Russell
Frank Garner
Vivian Perez, Administrative Assistant Mayor and City Commission

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley asked for approval of the October 1 and October 8, 2008 minutes. Chairman Weekley acknowledged that Roger McVeigh handed some typographical corrections to Vivian Perez and indicated the minutes are approved with the corrections.

Jimmy Weekley read Commissioner Barry Gibson's email into the record. Chairman Weekley asked that Commissioner Gibson's email and Peter Wagner's letter be made hereto part of these minutes. Both letters are hereto attached to these minutes.

Chairman Weekley stated that he believes that with that email, the resolution should be scrapped.

Francine Bolduc stated Peter Wagner has 4 objectors and Alan Maltz and she has 20 businesses that have committed to the idea and the street closure.

Chairman Weekley asked Ms. Bolduc for the list of names of the business that stated they would participate. Chairman Weekley read the following business names into the record:

La Te Da
Tim Henshaw, Key West Realty
Orion Bank
The New Piano Bar
1007 Market Place Plus 2 other business
SoDu Gallery
Key West Light Gallery
Sharon Wells – was a conversion from an objection letter

Speak Easy Inn
Rum Runners House
Archeo Gallery
Monkey Apple Art Factory
Panini Panini
Island Arts
Bonzi
Grand Vin
Coffee Tea House
Banana Cafe
Lucky Street

Some of the names of the participant were inaudible.

Bill Ehring stated that he has several clients in the upper Duval Street area and believes that the Street Closure is not a good idea. Mr. Ehring stated that his rationale is that he has a problem with diverting traffic away from the businesses by closing the street.

Chairman Weekley stated that a number of businesses attended two meetings that were held at La Te Da, he asked at both of those meetings who was in favor of the idea and did not get any objections from anyone that was there.

Chairman Weekley stated that everyone needs to realize this is a pilot project if it does not work then it can be scratched.

Kevin Boucher asked if the Committee knows how many businesses are opposed to the street closure. Francine Bolduc stated that she spoke with Alan Maltz and the gallery is not opposed to the concept of closing the street but wants something more organized, orderly and to know what exactly is going to occur. Ms. Bolduc stated that some merchants did have some particular concerns that are factual that 50% of their business on Saturday are from people who drive in, pick up an order and then go back.

Chairman Weekley reminded Francine Bolduc that the side street will still be open.

There were several discussions on how well the Full Moon Howl has been progressing.

Christine Russell commented on the violinist and bagpipes that SoDu Gallery had and how beautiful it was. Francine Bolduc mentioned that So Du Gallery will be coordinating the music for the street closure.

Christine Russell thinks that it is important to note for the record that the objectors have not given the time of day to participate in the weekly meetings and mentioned the survey that was done back in January regarding Duval Street.

Frank Garner reiterated that this is just a trial street closure and that if it does not work it can stop and if it works then it can be expanded.

Ms. Greene mentioned the Howl the previous night and how she believed that it was a really great turn out, she also mentioned that she took photos of all the cars that parked on

the Duval Street and the side streets. Ms. Greene thinks since the people had the option of finding easy parking that's why it was such a great turn out.

Chairman Weekley stated that there is no way of knowing that because there was parking on street that's why people attended the Howl. Chairman Weekley stated in all honestly that the concept can go both ways and that there is no traffic studies to back anyone's concerns.

Ms. Greene stated her opposition is not to the event, but that if it's just a street closure then she believes that won't attract people. Ms. Greene stated that if there was more information like what is the event's concept for example the Howl and the way it is organized it that attracts people.

Ms. Greene still believes that it will eliminate parking. Chairman Weekley indicated that parking will be redirected.

Chairman Weekley stated that the merchants involved are in charge of giving the event some character and give details of concept i.e. Duval Street Café atmosphere.

After some detailed discussion on the closing of the street it was determined that the resolution be withdrawn from the agenda and that a new rewritten resolution with more details describing the event in more depth be considered.

Chairman Weekley asked Vivian Perez to tell Commissioner Barry Gibson to withdraw the Resolution from the agenda.

It was discussed the possibility of having another Summit regarding Duval Street. Chairman Weekley asked Vivian Perez to asked Commissioner Barry Gibson about sponsoring another Summit.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 4:02 p.m.

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