



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Bart Whatley called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Bart Whatley (Chair), Heather Way (Vice Chair), Mandy Dealey, Jude Galligan, Dale Glover, Dan Leary, Rich MacKinnon, Joel Sher, Lindsey Sokol, Owen Snell, Bruce Willenzik

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Mona Sanchez and Don Pitts, Economic Development Department
Humberto Rey, Planning and Development Review Department

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak on General Communication.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2014 MEETING

The minutes from the January 15, 2014 meeting were approved on a 10-0 vote on Commissioner Willenzik's motion, and Commissioner Glover's second with Commissioner Sher abstaining.

4. BUSKING INITIATIVE

The Commission heard a presentation from Don Pitts, Economic Development Department.

Commissioner Dealey motioned with Commissioner Glover's second on a vote of 11-0 to send a statement of support for the Music Commission's request to Council acknowledging that street performances add to the vibrancy of downtown, activation of public spaces and attracts tourism and are supportive to the effort to introduce busking into Austin and encourage establishment of a pilot program to facilitate more busking.

5. GREAT STREETS

The Commission heard a presentation from Humberto Rey, Planning and Development Review Department.

No action was taken.

6. WORKING GROUPS

A. Report from the Downtown Public Open Space Working Group

No updates

B. Report from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group

The Planning Commission approved the Working Groups recommendations. It is scheduled for 2nd reading at Council.

7. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Whatley reported that the DAA's 2/20/14 Issues and Eggs meeting will discuss Project Connect and the Public Space Working Group meeting will be held on 2/21/14.

Commissioner Snell reported that It's My Park Day will be held on 3/1/14.

Commissioner MacKinnon reported that the UTC had a presentation from UT regarding their development of the site that was formerly the Players restaurant and would like to close a section of Whitis and turn it into a pedestrian mall.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE ITEMS

- Project Connect (March 19)
- Innovation Zone (March 19)
- Waller Creek Tunnel Update
- Wayfinding Project Update
- UT Medical and School design
- AISD and Growing Downtown Population
- 5th and West Avenue Residential Project

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.