

City of Delray Beach

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Minutes - Final

Friday, September 23, 2022

11:00 AM

Special Meeting at 11:00 AM

Delray Beach City Hall or Watch on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc2j0JhnR8Hx0Hj13RhCJag/videos?view=2&live_view=501

City Commission

Mayor Shelly Petrolia

Vice Mayor Adam Frankel

Deputy Vice Mayor Juli Casale

Commissioner Ryan Boylston

Commissioner Shirley Ervin Johnson

Pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Charter of the City of Delray Beach the Mayor has instructed me to announce a Special Meeting of the City Commission to be held for the following purposes:

The Special Meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. City Clerk Katerri Johnson called the roll and all members of the City Commission were present.

Others Present were:

City Manager, Terrance Moore
Lynn Gelin, City Attorney (attended virtually)

Present: 5 - Vice-Mayor Shirley Ervin Johnson, Commissioner Juli Casale, Mayor Shelly Petrolia, Deputy Vice Mayor Adam Frankel, and Commissioner Ryan Boylston

SP.1. [22-1365](#) Programming at the Old School Square Campus

Attachments: [Scan_2022-09-06-044121810](#)
 [Scan_2022-09-06-063329129](#)
 [Scan_2022-09-07-125811799](#)
 [OSS DDA BUSINESS PLAN \(1\)](#)

Ms. Laura Simon, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Executive Director also attended virtually. She thanked the Commission and City staff for pulling this meeting together. Ms. Simon introduced Ms. Mavis Benson, the DDA Board Chair who gave an introduction on behalf of the DDA Board. Ms. Benson recognized Ms. Vera Wilson, a new DDA Boardmember and Ms. Liliana their Operations Manager who were both present in the audience.

Ms. Benson explained that as a board, they have been most concerned over the closure of Old School Square (OSS) and the impact on the community. She stated it has been on their radar and at their meeting on September 12th, the DDA board reached consensus to take a deeper dive into how they can get more involved in the future of Old School Square. She explained they have always offered to assist in any way possible and whatever the outcome, they would work equally as hard to provide that going forward with OSS as they do in the Downtown.

Ms. Benson concluded her introduction and turned it over to Ms. Laura Simon who began her presentation. Ms. Simon explained their responsibility is for the vibrancy of the community and the Old School Square campus is the catalyst and heartbeat in the center of the city and the downtown and it needs to be more than just a single-use center as it impacts the entire community.

She reminded the Commission that her Father Roy Simon and her were both born and raised in Delray Beach and she stated her father provided her with some documents from 1986 and 1987 when the Delray Beach elementary school was acquired. She explained a plan was put together to renovate with purpose an Art and Culture Community Center for the city to bring the art and culture vibrancy to the downtown as a catalyst for the revitalization of the downtown and the city and that the approach taken back then is very relevant today as they move forward in this new time.

Ms. Simon read a quote from a letter received from a resident, Ms. Allison Smith, that stated "The planning process for such a civic venture can be a powerful catalyst to produce change in Delray's estimate of itself, but it must work with and through agencies that can affect change". Ms. Simon felt that quote was important to note because the DDA has had an impact in the community and have proven over the past 50 years that they bring hope, they want to effect change, and they are the economic development drivers in the city.

Ms. Simon reminded the Commission that additional funding will be needed to make this happen at the Old School Square campus. Her recommendation is that the DDA be designated by the City to lead the effort of developing and implementing a phased plan for the use, management and activation of the Old School Square campus.

She explained that Phase I will include the following:

1. Create a Task Force
2. Activate Museum and Grounds
3. Change the Narrative with re-branding

Ms. Simon shared that her most important points were:

- Collaboration
- Not cutting anyone out
- Initial goal of small but impactful changes
- Plan now through the season and summer of '23

The City Commission engaged in discussion each expressing thanks to Ms. Simon and consensus was given to the DDA to move forward and figure out the logistics. There was discussion of putting together a Tri-Party agreement between the City, CRA and the DDA.

Mr. Moore acknowledged receiving consensus from the Commission and stated his office will be in touch with leadership from the DDA and the CRA as well as the Office of the City Attorney with Ms. Lynn Gelin to facilitate an

Interlocal Agreement as well as other considerations to integrate much of the work that has been started by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation so everyone can be on the same page enabling them to bring back specific recommendations to the City Commission accordingly.

Mr. Moore stated his office will be in touch to arrange a meeting in the coming days.


Mr. Frankel reminded everyone of the email from City Attorney Gelin suggesting a Joint Workshop Meeting between the City, DDA and CRA and Mayor Petrolia agreed it would be a good idea to give them enough time to come up with what needs to be done.

Further discussion ensued.

With no further business to discuss, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.


City Clerk

ATTEST:


MAYOR

The undersigned is the City Clerk of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and the information provided herein is the Minutes of the September 23, 2022 City Commission Special Meeting held on September 23, 2022, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the City on October 11, 2022.


City Clerk

NOTE TO READER:

If the Minutes you have received are not completed as indicated above, this means they are not the official Minutes of the City Commission. They will become the official Minutes only after review and approval which may involve some amendments, additions or deletions as set forth above.