



MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
DDA FY2025-2026 BUDGET MEETING
Monday, September 8th, 2025 – 5:00PM – 6PM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
100 NW 1st Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444

Call to Order of the September 8th, 2025 BOARD MEETING – 5:17 PM

Members Present: Cole Devitt, Alan Costilo, Brian Rosen, Aaron Hallyburton, Anthony Barber, Jule Guagliardi, Jim Knight

Members Absent: None.

Ex-Officio Members present: Mayor Tom Carney.

Staff: Laura Simon, Liliana Fino, Suzanne Boyd, Quentin Morgan, Shelly Likosar, Marusca Gatto, Emily Oliveras.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL – Additions or Deletions

Agenda was approved as part of the immediately preceding DDA Regular Board meeting through motion by Anthony Barber, seconded by Brian Rosen, and unanimously accepted by the Board.

DDA Executive Director Simon introduces the meeting and references the City Commission Meeting of September 3rd where the DDA presented its budget on a preliminary approval of the DDA's millage rate, which funds the DDA's operations.

5:29pm – Anthony Barber leaves the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS & PARTNERS REPORTS – limited to 3 Minutes

Public Comment by Mavis Benson (Downtown Merchant and Business Association, Chair):

Ms. Mavis Benson reads a letter on behalf of Ms. Bonnie Beer (Caffe Luna Rosa, Managing Partner):

My name is Bonnie Beer, and I am a past DDA Board member from 2012–2019. I am also a managing partner of Caffe Luna Rosa since 2000 as well as a past resident of downtown Delray Beach from 1997–2006. Being in the City as both a resident and business owner, I have seen the exponential growth downtown over the last 28 years. With this growth comes challenges such as parking, cleanliness, safety and keeping business owners informed of any changes to the everyday schedule. The DDA has done exactly that.

Laura and her team work tirelessly to keep the businesses notified of the issues that may affect them, the DDA started the clean and safe program which has worked with the police department to deal with some of the crime and homelessness in the city. As the City gets more visitors, more crime is unfortunately imminent. Having the clean and safe program is a great way to help combat that problem as we want to make our visitors, business owners and residents feel safe in Delray Beach. In addition to above mentioned, The DDA also created many events to not only help the local community but to also bring awareness to others how amazing Delray Beach is. Savor the Avenue, Art & Jazz, Fashion Week and Restaurant Month are some of these events. These events have become known throughout the state and show the uniqueness and vitality of our downtown.

350 SE 1st Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483
Tel: 561-243-1077

I truly believe that any financial cuts affecting the DDA would be doing a disservice to our City.
Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
Bonnie Beer

Ms. Mavis Benson then addresses the Board, emphasizing the importance of maintaining confidence in all decisions, which are consistently made with transparency, fiscal responsibility, and strategic intent — ensuring that every dollar is properly accounted for, each program aligns with the organization's mission, and all efforts are directed toward strengthening the vitality of downtown Delray Beach.

James O' Connor (Delray Beach, Resident and Ticket Socket, Manager)

Mr. James O'Connor, disclosing some information disclosing in the interest of transparency present himself referring that he is a local resident and business owner and shares that they have relocated the headquarters of their company, Ticket Socket, to Second Avenue in Delray Beach and are currently collaborating with the DDA on ticketing for Old School Square and the museum. Then he proceeds expressing his pride in the city's vibrant and picturesque character, and diversity of programming often praised by visitors. Finalizing his comments Mr. James O'Connor voices his support for the proposed budget, stating it sustains Delray Beach's culture and energy, which he views as beneficial to the community.

5:24pm - Mayor Carney enters the room.

3. DDA FY2025/2026 Millage and Budget approval

3A: Downtown Development Authority FY2025/2026 Millage & Budget

DDA Executive Director Laura Simon presents the proposed operating budget for the fiscal year and plan for the Board to provide input and approval.

Board Chair Knight suggests the DDA to continue advocacy for development within downtown Delray Beach of the West Atlantic District and to encourage vitality on that part of town through programming.

Board Secretary Guagliardi suggests bringing a carnival festival (which she considers a cross-cultural wonderful experience) to that part of downtown to help celebrate and energize the community.

DDA Executive Director Simon mentions that there used to be a Frog Alley Caribbean Festival and suggested revisiting the idea. She notes that current efforts include creating the initiative Sounds of the SET to bring activation to the Libby Wesley Plaza.

Board member Costilo acknowledges the need for the Safety Ambassadors Program to expand in terms of number of staff, area patrolled and schedule.

Mayor Carney suggests the DDA's budget match last year's one, acknowledging the good work the DDA has done with the previous budget. Mayor Carney mentions that the City had already pulled back taxes and the DDA maintaining its budget would be a good gesture toward fiscal responsibility.

Motion by Alan Costilo, seconded by Cole Devitt to approve DDA FY2025/2026 Budget as presented.

Motion carries (6 - 0) through roll call (Anthony Barber not present):

Cole Devitt – Yes

Alan Costilo – Yes

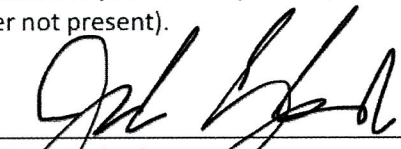
Brian Rosen – Yes
Aaron Hallyburton – Yes
Jule Guaglardi – Yes
Jim Knight – Yes

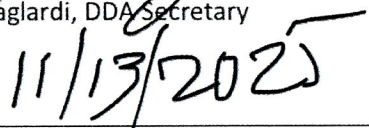
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM through motion by Aaron Hallyburton, seconded by Alan Costilo.

Motion carries (6 - 0). All in favor (Anthony barber not present).

Respectfully submitted,
Liliana Fino



Jule Guaglardi, DDA Secretary


DATE