

**GEORGIA DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MACON, GA
August 23, 2022**

The GDA Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 23, at 12:45 p.m. in the Terminal Station in Macon, GA. President Norton called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

The following Board Members were in attendance: President April Norton, Vice-President Jeffrey Fowler, Past President Mathew Hill, Ms. Velinda Hardy, Ms. Abigail Strickland, Mr. Qaijuan Willis, Ms. Tonya Parker, Ms. Emily Hopkins, Ms. Kendrick Ward, Mr. Taylor Smith, and Ms. Monica Rentfrow. Secretary/Treasurer Christian Hamilton, Aundi Lesley, Abbey McLaren and Mr. Ricky Clark were absent.

The following Staff Members were in attendance: Ms. Renée Coakley.

The following Partners were in attendance: Ms. Sharon Collins, Ms. Ellen Hill, Mrs. Leigh Burns, Mrs. Jessica Worthington, Ms. Elizabeth Elliott, Mr. Chris Higdon, Mrs. Cindy Edison, Mrs. Sadie Krawczyk, Ms. Kaitlin Messich, Mr. Danny Bivins, Ms. Ebony Simpson.

No new items were added to the agenda.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Fowler, the July 26, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Coakley provided the Financial Report for June 2022. She stated there was an increase in member dues and conference registration fees. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Rentfrow and seconded by Mr. Willis, the June 2022 Financial Report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Internal. a. Bylaw Review & Vote: Past President Hill presented the bylaws to the membership that includes updates to virtual meetings, and board terms. He announced the board has already approved the updated bylaws and now must be approved by the membership to adopt them. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Carlee Schulte and seconded by Ms. Michelle _____, the membership voted to adopt the bylaws. None were opposed.

Education and Conference. a. Regional Meet-Ups. Vice-President Fowler announced Fall meeting schedule:

- October 11- Vidalia
- October 13- Canton
- October 13- Moultrie
- October 18- Hartwell
- October 19- LaGrange

All meetings will be held from 10am-2pm.

b. **Mentoring Program.** Vice-President Fowler stated that 16 new mentees will be attending the lunch on October 24 at Vibe. The 2021 Mentors and Mentees will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony Wednesday night.

c. **CDP Update.** The Certified Development Profession program is being developed in partnership with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Georgia Power and GDA. Mara Shaw and Chrissy Marlowe gave an update on the new professional development program. Currently the program is outlining the new curriculum, and a meeting with the education committee is scheduled during the conference to discuss next steps for planning the program and content development.

d. **2022 Conference.** Ms. Hopkins gave an update on the conference and thanked everyone for coming to Macon. She reminded the membership that the Rock Candy Tours were tonight at 7:30 and 8:00pm. Also, Popular Unplugged would start at 6pm and the Grand Opera would be open for tours. Karaoke will start at 9pm at Retro on Wednesday evening to end the conference.

Marketing and Membership. a. Swag Purchased. Ms. Coakley stated that GDA “swag” is still for sale.

b. Marketing. Silent auction items are still for bid and money is going towards the Edge scholarship. Members were encouraged to use #GaDowntowns when posting photos. The new website is up, and anyone is welcome to submit events to it.

c. Membership. Ms. Coakley announced membership was up 10 new members in June, 13 new members in July and 7 new members in August.

Legislative. a. Update. No report was provided

Staff Updates

GMA/GA Cities: Mr. Higdon reported that the revolving loan fund was awarding loans up to \$250,000. Ms. Krawczyk announced that placemaking applications would be live starting September 1.

DCA. Ms. Elliot announced that the live coffee and conversation would take place on Thursday, August 25th at 8:30 am at Hotel-Forty Five.

Georgia Power. No Update

Fox Theatre Institute. Ms. Burns announced the Fox Theatre Institute is working on their strategic planning.

- a. On September 12-14 is the Georgia Presents Showcase Presentation will take place in Columbus.
- b. In 2022 over \$2.3 Million was awarded in grant money to 56 presenters across the state.

ECG. No Update

Carl Vincent Institute. Mr. Bivins spoke thanking the GDA Board of Directors and the GMA staff for their hard work and dedication to the Georgia Downtown Association and for such a successful conference.

Adjourn. Motion was made to adjourn at 1:15 by Mr. Fowler, seconded by Ms. Ward.