



For Immediate Release

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Downtown Amarillo, Inc. Schedules Open Meetings

Redevelopment Non-Profit Continues Public Engagement

Date: January 27, 2011

Downtown Amarillo, Inc (DAI) announced today an "open meetings" policy for regular session meetings of its Board of Directors. This decision was unanimously approved by the DAI Board. Meeting agendas—with dates and locations—will be posted online at www.downtownamarillo.com, at the office of Downtown Amarillo, Inc., 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 205, and at City Hall, 509 SE 7th Avenue, prior to monthly meetings, and minutes of the public sessions will be available afterwards on the DAI website.

Board of Directors Chairman Les Simpson says that while DAI is not legally required to hold open meetings, the Board seeks to continue its traditions of openness and inclusion: "Downtown Amarillo, Inc., values the input of all the residents of Amarillo," Simpson says. "Opening regular session meetings provides interested parties the opportunity to observe normal board discussions, and reflects our commitment to interact with the community in a transparent and open manner to create and implement a vision for downtown Amarillo."

Downtown Amarillo, Inc., is committed to the development and redevelopment of downtown Amarillo and the prosperity of the entire community, says DAI Executive Director Melissa Dailey. "Since being chartered to help steward the redevelopment process, we have pursued constant public engagement," says Dailey. "DAI holds public meetings throughout the City, delivers presentations to the City Commission in public session, and posts a wide variety of data on our web site. The step we're taking to implement an opening meetings policy for our Board's regular session meetings reflects our ongoing commitment to the public process."

DAI's Board will observe best practices and policies developed for open and closed meetings, says Simpson, including hold close sessions as warranted. "DAI will use Texas state laws as the guideline on conducting our meetings," says Simpson. "This would include the option of going to closed session to discuss issues as the law allows for public bodies to do so." The new DAI guidelines will take effect for the board's monthly meeting on February 3, 2011 at its offices, 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 205.

For more information about Downtown Amarillo and the public redevelopment process, and to provide input, please explore the resources online at www.downtownamarillo.com.

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