

Janey Ettien
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Downtown Development Authority

Shane Ridley
Don Townsend
Janet York

"Your City for Family Living"

City of Trenton

Incorporated 1854

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February 6, 2006

To: Commissioners – City of Trenton

Subject: Downtown Development Authority Monthly Status Report for January 6, 2006

General Downtown Development Authority Items

January 2006 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)

1. The 2006 DDA officers were elected – Don Townsend (Chair), Rex Harrison (Vice-Chair), Lucretia Houts (Secretary-Treasurer)
2. Monthly meeting dates for 2006 remain the same – 3rd Thursday of the month at 5 PM at City Hall

Promotion Committee

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

Family Fest 2006

- The dates for Family Fest 2006 are May 19, 20 and 21. It was extended to Sunday to encourage more arts and crafts vendor participation.
- Fund raising planning has begun. There is a plan to raise more money private money this year.
- The committee is asking for a City contribution of \$3,500.
- The Chickamauga Campaign Heritage Trail committee work is progressing. 100,000 brochures have been ordered and the designs for the two plaques that will go up in Trenton are being worked on. Plaques could be up in the next 90 to 120 days. In addition, work is underway on the web site to promote the trail. Trenton is stop one on the trail
- The committee is also supporting the Northwest Georgia Pedestrian and Biking Task force with the goal to increase ties with the Chattanooga and broader bike riding

community. An ad for Cloudland Canyon has been developed to attract bikers to the area at the Tour de Georgia.

- A press release was sent out documenting that there is plenty of positive change happening in the City or near-by. Both local papers printed the article.

Design Committee

Shane Ridley is the chairperson of this committee.

Street Banners

The street banners have gone through a maintenance cycle. The Street Department has retensioned all the banners so they can maintain their best appearance and last as long as possible.

Façade Grant Program

The committee is seeking funding from local banks and other sources for a façade grant program. A presentation was made by the DDA, with the help of Paul Kreager of the University of Georgia, to each of the local bank presidents in the City for funds to be used to support the grant program. Both banks are supportive of the concept and will be addressing the matter with their boards. The programs would provide grants to local merchants and other entities along Highway 11 for the renovation of their façades.

We are very optimistic that the banks will support this program

Historic Preservation Committee

The DDA continues to be supportive of the City creating a Historic Preservation Commission whose job it would be to evaluate what historic structures exist downtown and should be preserved.

Economic Restructuring Committee

Allan Ward is the chairperson of the Economic Restructuring Committee.

Spending Downtown

The committee worked with the Optimist Club to have them commit to spending \$1,500 downtown in support of one of their programs

Seeking New Downtown Businesses and Development

The committee has developed a package to encourage a new business to come to our City. We await hearing from that business

The committee is also working with a developer for advice and consul on development potentials for downtown

The committee is also working with local business owners on the possibility of low interest loans for downtown development

Business Brochure and Map

The project is on hold pending the completion of new City and County maps by the County 911 organization.

Organization Committee

Janet York is the chairperson of the Organization Committee.

2006 Assessment of 2005 Better Hometown Program

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs assessed the Trenton Better Hometown 2005 program. In order to pass the assessment, all nine mandatory criteria must be met. We are happy to say the Better Hometown Program met the nine mandatory categories and the addition tenth voluntary category for a 10 of 10-success rating.

Thanks to all the volunteers, the City Commission and the DDA board for this success.

Georgia Academy of Economic Development

Allan Ward, Economic Restructuring Chair, will be attending this year's academy.

Board Member Training

Janey Ettien must attend mandatory board training. She has applied for that training

Downtown Development Authority Meeting Schedule

The regular monthly meeting is the third Thursday of every month here at City Hall starting at 5 PM. The next meeting is February 16, 2006.

Peter Cervelli
Better Hometown Manager
City of Trenton

