

Downtown Development Authority

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To: Commissioners – City of Trenton

Subject: Downtown Development Authority Monthly Status Report for August 2006

General Downtown Development Authority Items

September 2006 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)

1. To accept minutes
2. To accept financial report
3. To pay DDA attorney (\$170.39) for services rendered

Promotion Committee

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

Fall Festival 2006

- A fall festival is currently being planned that will take place October 28. It will coincide with the pumpkin carving event the Sheriff's office sponsors. The Chamber has been invited and has agreed to participate.

Chickamauga Campaign Heritage

- Negotiations are underway on placement of two additional Chickamauga Campaign Heritage Trail signs. The two Trenton sites are:
 - The Macon Iron Works
 - The O'Neal House

- The Chickamauga Campaign Heritage Trail Committee has been working on a website, which will support tourism with all the historical marker information. A draft version is available at <http://www.chickamaugacampaign.org/preview/>. The website includes the Trenton and Dade County sites. Click on “Tour Information”, “Dade County”.

Northwest Georgia Pedestrian and Biking Task Force

- A “Community Walkability Workshop” was sponsored by one of the member organizations of the Task Force - The Northwest Georgia Department of Health .The significance of the workshop was the data made available that can be used as part of the downtown streetscape project. See Streetscape below under Design Committee for more information

Christmas in the Park

- Initial planning has begun.

Design Committee

The chair of this committee is Vickie Seymour.

Façade Grant Program

- A façade grant program for 2006 is underway for downtown Trenton. Grants can run up to \$4,500. At least three downtown businesses either have applied for or are in the process of preparing façade grant details for submittal. The Façade Grant Committee has not made any decisions yet on who will receive a grant.

City Entranceway Signs

- The Design Committee has received a proposal from Visual Marketing for a proposed city entranceway sign design (see attachment). Other concepts are also under discussion, such as a carved stone with the city name etc. on it. The Design Committee will make a recommendation to the City. The Committee is looking for input from the Commission and City residents

Streetscape and Creek Walk.

- The DDA is anticipating that in 2007 the City can apply for a Transportation Enhancement Grant that would fund, in part, a Streetscape project for downtown and a Town Creek Walk. To that end,
 - The Committee Design has met with the Mayor and has obtained a go-ahead to start serious planning for the project.
 - Committee members have met with John Culpepper of Chickamauga for his and advice and counsel and t learn from Chickamauga’s successful grant application for their streetscape.

- Committee members have also met with Senator Mullis to enlist his support, which he has given.
- Plans are underway to meet with GDOT to bring them into the process
- A preliminary easement study has been done
- Plans are underway to create an organizing committee of City residents, business and property owners, and a representative(s) of the City Street Department.
- A Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant will be sought for use in partial funding of a Town Creek Walk. Preliminary work has begun on the grant. That grant can be applied for at any time.
- Plans are underway for a *Request for Qualifications* (RFQ) which will seek out qualified engineering firms for this project (see attached proposed list of firms).

Historic Preservation Commission

- This activity is pending.

Downtown Building Design Criteria

- The recommendation has been submitted to the City attorney for the development of a proposed ordinance.

Economic Restructuring Committee

Allan Ward is the chairperson of the Economic Restructuring Committee.

Seeking New Downtown Businesses and Development

Project 1- A new technology business is currently being courted for the Trenton Industrial Park. We have met with the business owner who is evaluating options. The business is currently located outside of Georgia. The NWGAJDA is handling the details. Plans are confidential, at this point.

Project 2 -The committee continues working with a developer for advice and counsel on development potentials for downtown. A plan is under development for this project. Details are still confidential.

Project 3 – The committee is working on a project to bring a new business into downtown. The details are still confidential.

Building Inventory

A building inventory for Main Street buildings is under development

Organization Committee

Janet York is the chairperson of the Organization Committee.

Board Membership

- Beth Chilton of Trenton has taken her place on the Board of the DDA. Beth has also opened, with her partners, a new business in downtown called Polkadots.
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DDA Website

- A website for the DDA is now live. Please visit it. It is www.DowntownTrentonGA.org. There have been over 120 visitors to the website as of today.

Grants

- See DNR grant above under **Streetscape and Creek Walk**

Non-Profit Status

- Work is almost complete on the forming a 501c3 non-profit organization. This has been and continues to be a very time-consuming detail effort. 501c3 status would provide an additional tool for downtown development.

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 September 21, 2006.

Peter Cervelli
Better Hometown Manager
City of Trenton

Streetscape / Town Creek Walk RFQ for Engineering Consultants

As a first step in the process of concept development, an engineering consultant must be chosen.

The consultant selection process approved by GA\DoT must be used so that consultant fees paid by Trenton would be able to count as matching money toward federal reimbursement funds.

Georgia uses a “Qualifications-Based Selection” system for consultants. Details can be found at the GA\DoT website as well as Official Code of Georgia Annotated 50-22-6. This is a list of some pre-qualified consultants that the City Commission may want to consider in its Request for Qualifications:

1. ARCADIS, G&M, Inc.
2. Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon
3. Jordan, Jones & Goulding, Inc.
4. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
5. PBS&J, Inc.
6. Volkert & Associates
7. Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.
8. Woolpert, LLP

Do the commissioners have any others they would want added to the list?