

# Downtown Development Authority

Janey Ettien

Don Townsend

Barton Harris

"Your City for Family Living"

Allan Ward

Rex Harrison

*City of Trenton*

Janet York

Incorporated 1854

P.O. Box 518 • Trenton, Georgia 30752

Telephone (706) 657-4167

**December 4, 2006**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

**Subject: Downtown Development Authority Monthly Status Report for November 2006**

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

### **November 2006 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)**

1. To approve minutes of October 19, 2006 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To award Dade Middle School \$100 for Scarecrow Contest entry
4. To pay Michael Phillips \$250 for sound equipment for Christmas in the Park
5. To award \$100 to best float in Christmas Parade
6. To pay Redline Printing \$100 for banners
7. To table attendance policy
8. To accept resignation of Don Townsend as Chairperson of the DDA Board

## **Promotion Committee**

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

### **Christmas in the Park 2006**

- Christmas in the Park 2006 took place on December 2, 2007 after the Chamber Christmas parade. The event grew in all aspects year over year. Attendance was up from last year; many floats came back to the park after the parade for judging; more lights have been hung. The entertainment was also great as usual. The winner of the best float \$100 award was Cornerstone Church. The event was a great success by all measures.

## **Christmas Lights on Main Street**

- The DDA wishes to thank Preston Daniels and his department for their hard work in hanging the Christmas lights in time for the Christmas parade.

## **Chickamauga Campaign Heritage**

- The Chickamauga Campaign Heritage Trail website is available at <http://www.chickamaugacampaign.org> . The website includes the Trenton and Dade County sites. Click on “Tour Information”, “Dade County”.
- John Culpepper, committee chair, has found that the new signs are showing water problems. The signs will be replaced by the vendor.

## **Georgia State Civil War Commission**

- The Georgia Civil War Commission met in Ringgold on Saturday December 2, 2006. One of the main topics was preparing for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War and the Chickamauga and Atlanta Campaigns. A committee was formed of local participants (counties, cities, chambers, and CVVBs). Bill Marshall volunteered to be part of the committee representing Dade County.
- The U.S. Army also was present and has created a component to celebrate military events. They have funding to support local events. I signed the City up as a contact partner.

## **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. Some awards may be announced this week.
- Trenton’s Better Hometown Program arranged for additional design work to be done Case Hardware. Design work has also been done for Cindy Shaw’s property on south Main Street.

## **City Entranceway Signs**

- The Design Committee has made a recommendation to the Mayor on the design of an entranceway sign for the City. This project is temporarily on hold awaiting samples from sign companies.

## **Streetscape and Creek Walk.**

- Update to Outline below are underlined:
- General Outline: 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 advice and counsel and to 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.
  - 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.
  - A preliminary easement study has been done
  - Mayor met with GDOT on October 6, 2006 to bring them into the process
  - A meeting took place with Mike Evans, Chairperson of State Transportation Board of Georgia, Senator Mullis, Commissioners Lawson, Gray and Harris. Trenton's streetscape plans were reviewed, positive support was elicited from Chairperson Evans, and a tour of the potential streetscape location took place.
  - An initial meeting was had with potential members of an organizing committee of city residents, business and property owners, and a representative(s) of the city Street Department.
  - Responses have been received from the *Request for Qualifications* (RFQ) which was posted on the state registry. Three responses have arrived. They must be reviewed by the City and an engineering firm chosen that best meets the requirements. The end of November is being targeted for that decision.
  - Better Hometown Manager will provide his evaluation to Mayor and Barton Harris by Thursday December 7, 2006.

## **Historic Preservation Commission**

- Commission members are being sought. One city resident has tentatively agreed to participate.

## **Economic Restructuring Committee**

Allan Ward is the chairperson of the Economic Restructuring Committee.

## **Seeking New Downtown Businesses and Development**

Project X – Status Project Active and Progressing

- 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.

## **Building Inventory**

A building inventory for Main Street buildings is under development

## **Organization Committee**

Janet York is the chairperson of the Organization Committee.

## **Grants**

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

## **Non-Profit Status**

- The *Trenton Downtown Alliance* has been incorporated in the State of Georgia as a non-profit corporation.
- The *Trenton Downtown Alliance* has obtained an EIN from the IRS.
- Papers have been filed and received by the IRS for 501c3 non-profit status. We must wait at least 120 days for any further response.
- The *Trenton Downtown Alliance* board has met and elected officers. They are the same as the officers and board of the DDA. The board will meet quarterly. Per IRS rules, the Alliance can act as a 501c3.
- 501c3 status will provide an additional tool for downtown development.
- On-going status will be provided

## **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 December 21, 2006.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton