

# Downtown Development Authority

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"Your City for Family Living"

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**January 8, 2007**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

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

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

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

1. To approve minutes of November 2006 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To approve developing a tourism contract with the Dade County Chamber
4. To approve electing Rex Harrison as Chairperson of the 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. Christmas lights were on display every evening in the park through the end of December.

### **Christmas Lights on Main Street**

- Christmas lights were on display on Main Street and on Hwy 136 through December 2006. The DDA wishes to thank Preston Daniels and his department for their hard work in hanging the Christmas lights.

## **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 new signs will be ready shortly.

## **Design Committee**

The chair of this committee is Vickie Seymour.

## **Façade Grant Program**

- The façade grants for 2006 were awarded to Case hardware and Cindy Shaw for her building on South Main Street. Each grant was for \$2,000. The grants will be awarded when the work is completed, per the specification. They have 6 months to complete all work.

## **City Entranceway Signs**

- The Design Committee has made a recommendation to the Mayor on the design of an entranceway sign for the City. The project will be restarted in January 2007.

## **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 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.
  - 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.
  - The city has chosen Arcadis as the engineering firm. The contracts are under review. Financing is being sought.

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

- Commission members are being sought.

### **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.

### **State of Georgia 2007 Better Hometown Yearly Assessment**

- The assessment package for the 2007 assessment of the 2006 program has been completed and sent to the state. The assessment meeting is later this month.

### **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. The IRS has asked for some minor additional information that has been provided. The waiting period is approximately 120 days for more information from the IRS>
- 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 January 18, 2007.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton