

# Downtown Development Authority

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"Your City for Family Living"

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**February 5, 2007**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

**Subject: Downtown Development Authority Monthly Status Report for January 2007**

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

### **January 5, 2007 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)**

1. To approve minutes of December 2006 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To approve motion to accept managing tourism for the city
4. To approve setting February 9, 2007 as deadline for DDA / Chamber contract
5. To approve Allan Ward as Vice-Chairman
6. To Approve Lucretia Houts as Secretary-Treasure
7. To approve payment of \$97.50 to Dade County Broadcasting
8. To approve tabling discussion of Bylaw changes

## **Promotion Committee**

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

### **Family Fest 2007**

- Initial planning has begun for the May festival. Volunteers and sponsors are the key to success. Please have them call Janis Ward (423 309-6392) or Rex Harrison (423 413-5030).

## **Chickamauga Campaign Heritage**

- John Culpepper, committee chair, has found that the new signs are showing water problems. The new signs are ready this week. Rex Harrison hopes to pick up the City's signs this week, as well.
- 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".

## **Design Committee**

The chair of this committee is Bob Dombrowski.

### **New Chairperson**

- Bob Dombrowski is the new chairperson of the Design Committee. Vickie Seymour, former chair, passed the responsibility to Bob, because of the demands on her time as President of the Dade County Chamber. Vickie continues to be a member of the committee.

### **Façade Grant Program**

- The Downtown Development Authority wishes to thank Citizen's Bank & Trust and Tom Scruggs, President of the Bank, for their invaluable support for and commitment to the program.
- The \$2,000 façade grant check was presented to Larry and Louise Case on February 2, 2007.
- A second grant has been awarded to Cindy Shaw for her building on South Main Street. Once the project is finished per the agreement with the DDA, the actual check will be awarded.

### **Town Creek Trail**

- The Creek walk project has a new working name of "Town Creek Trail". The design committee is collaborating with the Trenton Arts Council on building the first step in that trail at Jenkins Park and nearby area.

### **City Entranceway Signs**

- The Design Committee is pursuing a sign manufacturer.

### **Streetscape and Creek Walk.**

- Updates to Status/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 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.
  - The city has chosen Arcadis as the engineering firm. The contracts are under review. Financing is being sought.
  - Financing for the pre-engineering work has been obtained. Contract can now be signed with Arcadis.
  - Applications for the Transportation Enhancement grants will be due in April 2007.

### **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**

- On January 16, 2007, the Department of Community Affairs assessed the City of Trenton's Better Hometown Program. Billy Parish, Director of the Office of Downtown Development and Leamon Scott of DCA, met with Mayor Emanuel, Chairperson Harrison, and Peter Cervelli to review the 2006 Better Hometown program. The program was assessed on the nine mandatory standards used by the state. The program must pass all nine. The City's program passed all nine mandatory standards and one additional optional standard for a score of 10 out of 10.
- There are many individuals to thank for helping make all the pieces come together again in 2006. It takes slow but steady progress to meet all the standards. It is not something you can decide to do at the end of the year.
- The first people to thank are all the volunteers both from within the City and outside that city that supported our projects. Next, our thanks go the DDA Design, Promotion, Economic Restructuring, and Organization committee members for their planning and accomplishments. Our thanks go to the City Commissioners and the Mayor for their support and belief in the program. Finally, and most importantly, thanks go to the citizens of the City of Trenton and its business community.

## **Grants**

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

## **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 15, 2007.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton