

Downtown Development Authority

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March 5, 2007

To: Commissioners – City of Trenton

Subject: Downtown Development Authority Monthly Status Report for February 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 payment of \$30 for Trenton Downtown Alliance yearly registration

Promotion Committee

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

Family Fest 2007

- Planning has begun for the May festival. Dates for festival are May 18, 2007 6 PM to May 20, 2007 5 PM.
- Fund raising has begun.
- 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

- One city sign with stand is at county barn for pick up. One sign is here without a stand. The stand is on order (no additional costs).
- 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.

Façade Grant Program

- 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.

Façade Design Work

- The Design Committee is working with another property owner in town on a façade design.

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.
- Phase 1 of the Trail has been proposed. See attached package.

City Entranceway Signs

- Inquiries have been sent to 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 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.
- The contract with Arcadis has been signed and a preliminary timeline has been developed for the two phases of the project – See attachment

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

- A meeting with DCA is planned to discuss financing options.
- 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.

DDA Board

- DDA is seeking several board members to fill vacant slots. Anyone interested can call to obtain an application.

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 March 15, 2007.

Peter Cervelli
Better Hometown Manager
City of Trenton