

# Downtown Development Authority

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**April 2, 2007**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

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

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

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

1. To approve minutes of January 2007 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To approve spending up to \$500 on Easter Egg Hunt
4. To accept Bob Dombrowski application to the county seat vacancy on the DDA Board of Directors and pass on a recommendation to the City Commission for his appointment

## **Promotion Committee**

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday March 31. Approximately 80 children and 110 parents and grandparents showed up for the hunt. The Promotion Committee is very pleased and thanks Melanie Parrish for organizing the event and the many other volunteers that supported the event.

## **Family Fest 2007**

- Planning continues for the May festival. Dates for festival are May 18, 2007 6 PM to May 20, 2007 5 PM.
- Fund raising has begun. \$1,550 has been raised so far. It is turning out to be a difficult fund raising process this year.
- 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**

- We have picked up the two signs that belong to the city. One sign is here without a stand. The stand is on order (no additional costs). Arrangements need to be made with GDOT for placement on one sign.
- 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.

## **Walkability and Bicycling Assessment**

On April 24, 2007, A GDOT funded assessment of Trenton will take place. The goal is to look at ways to improve the city’s walkability and bicycle friendliness. The output of that process will be fed to Arcadis for their use in a streetscape master plan.

## **Façade Grant Program**

- A second grant has been awarded to Cindy Shaw for her building on South Main Street. Renovation work continues on that building. 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 on a façade design with Monda Wooten on her property across from the Post Office.

## **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.

- The Trenton Arts Council has started cleaning out underbrush for the creek trail. A meeting will be held with Preston Daniels on work required on the parking lot side.

### 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
  - Arcadis has provided some preliminary design work. The next step is a meeting with GDOT on the pros and cons of the initial proposals.

## **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**

- A meeting was held with the DCA's finance team in Atlanta to discuss funding support for development projects in Trenton. The meeting was very helpful. Unfortunately, there are no "silver bullets" in terms of funding development projects. Some programs are very complex because of federal rules; others require significant investment capital from the local level (private and or public).
- A meeting has been set up with USDA on April 11 to discuss USAD financing programs.
- The committee continues to seek project alternatives for downtown.

## **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 voted to recommend Bob Dombrowski to the city Commission as a new board member. See the attached package..

## **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 April 19, 2007.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton

**DDA Board Recommendation  
For  
New Board Member**

The DDA Board at its March meeting reviewed Mr. Bob Dombrowski's application to the DDA.

Mr. Dombrowski has been very active in supporting the activities of the Design Committee. Three months ago, Bob volunteered to take over the vacant chairperson position of the Design Committee. To date, Bob has been very faithful to calling monthly meetings and obtaining the help of volunteers. In fact, one of the significant things Bob has done is bring a brand new group of active volunteers to our projects.

In addition, Bob has already organized a volunteer group for the proposed Town Creek Trail. That group has already put in a workday cleaning out underbrush. They are planning additional work sessions.

Bob has also been helpful in bringing a muralist to the City for the new mural that is now showing in the Park.

Bob brings a unique perspective to the community and is willing to put the work in as well. As a result, the DDA Board would like the city to appoint Mr. Dombrowski to the DDA Board for a term of two year.

Application attached.