

# Downtown Development Authority

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"Your City for Family Living"

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**May 7, 2007**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

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

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

### **April 19, 2007 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)**

1. To approve minutes of March 2007 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To allow Family Fest Chairperson to spend up to amount of monies raised for the Festival

## **Promotion Committee**

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

### **Family Fest 2007**

- Family Fest 2007 – The dates for Family Fest 2007 are May 18 (eve), 19, and 20. The Friday night parade to begin Family Fest will be at 7 PM . The entertainment schedule for all of Family Fest has been completed. Please see the attached press release.
- In addition to traditional Family Fest activities, this year will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Fest Softball Invitational for 7 – 8 year old girls. The details are also in the attached press release.
- Volunteers and sponsors are the key to success. Please have them call Janis Ward (423 309-6392) or Rex Harrison (423 413-5030).

We thank all our sponsors for the vital support. A list will be forthcoming.

### **Chickamauga Campaign Heritage**

- We have picked up the two signs that belong to the city. One sign is still 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 took place. The goal was to look at ways to improve the city’s walkability and bicycle friendliness. Several recommendations were developed as a result. The recommendations will be used by Arcadis for their use in a transportation 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.
- A façade design has also been requested by Danny Brock for Brock’s Restaurant.

### **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.
- Town Creek Trail – Phase 1 of Jenkins Park portion of Town Creek Trail is under development.
  - The south side of the creek has been cleared for a looping trail in a natural environment. Two small “bridges” will need to be placed along trail to deal with existing culverts.

- The north side of the trail (in parking lot along creek) is also under development. A grant from Tree City allowed for the placement of several trees along the trail. Other plantings and material for the trail are being acquired.

Many thanks go to Preston Daniels and his team for all the work they have done to support this project. The Design Team is very grateful and very impressed.

### **City Entranceway Signs**

- Delayed for lack of response from sign vendors.

### **Streetscape**

- 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.
- Streetscape – Meeting was held with the Cartersville office of GDOT. They reviewed and commented on the draft master plan and streetscape plans for downtown Trenton. There comments were broadly positive. However, they pointed out that certain aspects of the master plan will require a meeting with the GDOT commissioner. Arcadis will need to work with Barton Harris and the Design Committee to work up the details for that presentation. Senator Mullis will be invited to attend.
  - The first of two public meetings on the master plan and streetscape plans will be held on May 7, 2007.

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

- No change in status.

### **Economic Restructuring Committee**

Allan Ward is the chairperson of the Economic Restructuring Committee.

### **USDA**

- A meeting was held with USDA on April 11 to discuss USDA financing programs. USDA has several programs that citizens of Trenton and the County can take advantage of for low interest housing loans. The USDA will be presenting to the community on June 28 at Dade First Family Connection.

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

- The committee continues to seek project alternatives for downtown. A meeting is scheduled this week with a developer/consultant.

### **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**

- The DDA has received the resignation of Beth Chilton, for personal reasons, from the Board. The Board is looking for a City Citizen to replace Beth.

## **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 May 17, 2007.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton

<p>Beth Chilton</p> <p>Bob Dombrowski</p> <p>Janey Ettien</p>	<p><b>Downtown Development Authority</b></p> <p>“Your City for Family Living”</p> <p><i>City of Trenton</i></p> <p>Incorporated 1854</p> <p>P.O. Box 518 • Trenton, Georgia 30752</p> <p>Telephone (706) 657-4167</p>	<p>Rex Harrison</p> <p>J. Allan Ward</p> <p>Janet York</p>
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**PRESS RELEASE - May 3, 2007**

**Downtown Development Authority – Family Fest 2007 and  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Fest Softball Invitational**

**Trenton, Georgia** – On May 18 (eve), 19, and 20, 2007, Family Fest 2007 will take place at the City park, just a couple of blocks south of the courthouse square. This event is brought to you by the Downtown Development Authority but has really been made possible by the very hard work of a small group of volunteers. The volunteers come from the City and the County with only one objective, a great festival for all the families that attend.

This year in addition to traditional Family Fest events and activities, the City of Trenton through the Downtown Development Authority will be sponsoring the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Fest Softball Invitational**. The details are as follows:

- The Invitational will be for 7 and 8 year old girls
- It will be coach pitch
- The entry fee is \$65 and there are still some slots available for teams
- There will be games as follows:
  - Thursday May 17 from 5-10 PM
  - Friday May 18 from 5-10 PM
  - Saturday May 19 from 10 AM to 10 PM
- Bill Lockhart is the organizer and he can be reached on 423-593-1572

In addition to the Softball Invitational, Family Fest 2007 includes the following activities:

**May 18<sup>th</sup>**

- A parade starting at 6 PM
- A free concert by the Collins Brothers from 7-10 PM
- Food and fun for all

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

The day will start with a Family Fest Walk, sponsored by the Primary Health Care Center of Dade, Inc., Dade Healthy Living Coalition, National Boiler Service, Inc., and Northwest Georgia Public Health. There is no registration fee and everyone receives a t-shirt. The route will be in ½-mile increments. Everyone chooses his or her preferred distance. The schedule is:

- 8-8:45 AM Family Fest Walk Registration at Jenkins Park Entrance
- 9:00 AM Family Fest Walk Begins

All other festivities will begin at 10 AM with

- Arts & Crafts
- Games for kids
- Food of all kinds

Daytime great musical entertainment will include:

- Mechelle Nichols
- Wil Martin
- Mechelle and Wil
- Ted Rumley
- John Latham & Company
- Red Label Blue Grass
- Kerri Armstrong

In the evening on the Main Stage, the Festival Committee presents:

- The Sammi Moore Band (7-8 PM)
- Chad Yates (8-11 PM)

## **May 20<sup>th</sup>**

The festival will start at 1 PM so everyone can attend church services. The day will be dedicated to gospel music.

In addition to arts and crafts, games for kids, and food of all kinds, the gospel entertainment from 1-5 PM will include:

- Krischell Harrison
- Wil Martin
- Mechelle and Wil and ending the festival with
- Soul Faith

For more Family Fest information, please call the Festival Chairperson at 423-413-5030.

All are welcome at Family Fest 2007 in Trenton Georgia, Your City for Family Living.

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*For more information, reporters may contact:*

*Peter Cervelli  
City of Trenton, Georgia  
706-657- 5173*