

# Downtown Development Authority

Bob Dombrowski

Rex Harrison

Janey Ettien

"Your City for Family Living"

Allan Ward

*City of Trenton*

Incorporated 1854

Janet York

P.O. Box 518 • Trenton, Georgia 30752

Telephone (706) 657-4167

**June 4, 2007**

**To: Commissioners – City of Trenton**

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

## **General Downtown Development Authority Items**

### **May 17, 2007 Board Meeting Votes (Motions Passed)**

1. To approve minutes of April 2007 DDA Board Meeting
2. To approve financial report
3. To accept resignation of Beth Chilton
4. A motion was made by Janet York to recommend to the City that they consider a moratorium on all new signs downtown pending the city's decision on a sign ordinance. The motion was second by Janey Ettien. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Promotion Committee**

Rex Harrison is the chairperson of the Promotion Committee.

### **Family Fest 2007**

- Family Fest 2007 –Family Fest 2007 took place on May 18 (eve), 19, and 20. 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 took place. The Promotion Committee wishes to thank the City of Trenton and all the volunteers, sponsors, and vendors. See attached press release. The Committee is pleased with the execution of all aspects of the event and plans improvements for next year

## **Chickamauga Campaign Heritage**

- The location of the Macon Iron Works sign has been determined.
- The owner of the O'Neal House will be contacted regarding sign placement.
- The sole missing sign base is in Chickamauga for us to pick up.

## **Summer Concert**

- We are hopeful that there will be at least one summer concert in the park. Stay tuned.

## **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. 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 well underway and was in shape for Family Fest.
  - The south side of the creek has been cleared for a looping trail in a natural environment. One small bridge has been built over a culvert and one more may be necessary.
  - The north side of the trail (in parking lot along creek) is almost complete. A grant from Tree City allowed for the placement of several trees along the trail. Other plantings and material for the trail have also been acquired. A small group of volunteers is doing all the necessary watering.

## **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. Their 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.

- Two public hearings (May 7 and 29) have been held on the general plan for the streetscape project.
- The application for a Transportation Enhancement grant will be sent in by June 15, the deadline.

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

- No change in status.

### **Economic Restructuring Committee**

Allan Ward is the chairperson of the Economic Restructuring Committee.

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

- The committee continues to seek project alternatives for downtown.
- A meeting was held with a developer/consultant looking at financing options
- A meeting was held with other Region 1 managers and DCA regarding state programs for financing downtown development

### **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 accepted the resignation of Beth Chilton, for personal reasons, from the Board. The Board is looking for a City Citizen to replace Beth.

### **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 June 21, 2007.

Peter Cervelli  
Better Hometown Manager  
City of Trenton