DDA/Main Street Minutes

May 18, 2022

Executive Board Members present: Debbie Ray, Alice Glenn, Paul Sewell, Dennis White, Elizabeth Brewer, Vance Foster, Carey Jackson

Executive Board Chairman: Carey Jackson

Director: Jason Ford

Main Street Coordinator: Peggy Vickery

Advisory Board Members present: Amanda Brown, Tammy Hutchinson

Carey Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Alice Glenn gave the Treasurer’s report.

Director’s Report – See Jason’s attached report.

Among the notable announcements:

* Jason, Paul, Peggy, and Amanda have been and will be attending some important meetings: Main St. Regional on April 13, Ga. Academy for Economic Dev. On April 27th, Ga. Downtown Conference in Macon on Aug. 22-25, and the Main Street/DDA 101 that Paul, as a new board member has just completed.
* Jason updated us on TORCH project. On May 13th, Leadership Hart sponsored a very successful “Night at the Depot” featuring the transformed grounds around the Depot and highlighting the history and work done by Lake Foods, Home Depot, Ga. Soil and many of Leadership volunteers.
* We’ve had visitors from UGA, Haralson County, ILA Students updating us on 5 yr Strategic Planning efforts. Andrew Clyde visited May 3rd.
* Much discussion re the CREATE program (Cultivating Rural Entrepreneur and Transforming Economies) which will be held on May 10th and 11th. We are encouraged to save the date, as Hartwell has been selected by Ga. Power as exemplary of how small businesses can be successful.
* Downtown Development/Main Street has been involved this month with Rotary, Archway from UGA, College and Career Academy Board of Directors, Hart Co. Education Foundation Board, GICH (Ga. Initiative for Community Housing, and Poverty Taskforce.

Main Street – Peggy made the following announcements:

* The Main Street program will be having an intern, Peyton Gaines, helping us in various projects, PR, and website work. So excited to have her with us!
* Girls Night Out was a great success (most people ever!) We will have another in the fall.
* The Piano is being painted by HS students and we hope to have a dedication on June 11th or 12th. Hopefully Paul S. or Jackson Ford will be our musicians! Currently trying to find a dolly maker so piano can be more easily moved-Kiwanis?
* The Art Center may be the hub for an Art Walk that Dixie, as promotions co-chair, is planning for Oct. 14 and 15th where we can explore works of art in businesses, murals, stories of the sailboats, personal collections around the city.
* Peggy mentioned that the high school students will be “wrapping” the electrical boxes around the square with art work done by the students.
* A façade grant was awarded to the new Pelican Snowballs’ business on Railroad St. G’s Southern Traditions is also being rewarded soon with a façade grant for window replacement.
* Liza Banks has purchased Winnie J’s and will change the name to Banks Hollow. A Ribbon Cutting is planned on June 3rd.
* Lunch and Learn has been rescheduled from May to a June date.
* The Chamber has asked us to volunteer at Cars and Guitars on Memorial Day holiday. There was enthusiastic support for this.

The April minutes were approved.

Carey Jackson requested a move into Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate issue: The motion was made by Vance Foster, seconded by Elizabeth Brewer.

No action was taken on the issue. Debbie Ray moved to exit the session; Amanda Brown seconded. The approval to exit was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Submitted by Tammy Hutchinson, Secretary