**DAHLONEGA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/MAIN STREET BOARD**

**July 13, 2017**

**8:45 AM**

**City Hall**

**AGENDA**

**Members Present: Tony Owens, Donna Logan, Mike Miller, Bruce Howerton, Larry Odom**

**Members Absent: Hal Williams, Chris Welch**

**Staff Present: Danielle Bell, Joel Cordle, Sam Norton, Bill Schmid**

**Tony calls meeting to order at 8:45 AM**

1. **Approve May 11, 2017 meeting minutes** - ACTION ITEM – Tony

**Donna motioned to approve.**

**Mike seconded, all in favor, motion approved.**

1. **Approve financial report** – ACTION ITEM – Danielle

**Bruce motioned to approve**.

**Mike seconded, all in favor, motion approved**.

1. **Update on Downtown Economic Development Strategies** – Tony

* **Narrowing of strategies:** 
  + **Continue with wayfinding signage study.** 
    - **DDA Board attendance at Council work session: Bridge any sort of gap that may exist and collaborate on wayfinding project from start to finish.**
  + **Creating an environment for entrepreneurship** 
    - **Visit Georgia Southern’s innovation center in downtown Statesboro for business startup and incubation space ideas with community partners. Trip to take place mid-August.**
    - **Would be a good fit for Dahlonega due to UNG and other local colleges, off the square space is available.**

1. **Downtown Inventory Update & Wayfinding Recommendation** – Joel

* **Georgia Conservancy comprehensive wayfinding study. Affordable study to determine need in the community and develop a design plan for wayfinding. The study includes public meetings and on the street research for what merchants, residents and tourists are looking for. Will plan to present at Council work session and at DDA Board meeting next month.**
* **Inventory update: several property owner and retail and office space inquiries. Any recent vacancies have been filled for the most part. Inquiries for 4 restaurants and a boutique have been made and directed to property owners.**

1. **Staff Report** – Danielle
2. **Announcements from partner agencies**

* City of Dahlonega
  1. DDA Director search: interviews have been held for top candidates and an offer has been made.
  2. Street Scape: August 17th awards will be made to contractors and the project is preliminarily scheduled to begin late August. Details of work times and dates will be determined once a bid is accepted.
  3. Waterline replacement and new asphalt in Skyline Drive will begin Monday.
  4. City Hall Annex is being replaced due to water damage and mold. This is being researched.
  5. Is DDA interested in coordinating with HPC more? This would influence search for DDA director.
* University of North Georgia – no report
* Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Office – no report
* Historic Preservation Commission – no report
* Planning & Zoning Commission – Preliminary phone interviews are underway for new director.
* City Council – Sam Norton
  1. Looking forward to Street Scape and improving infrastructure and amenities.
  2. There has been turnover on the square but spaces are being released quickly.
  3. Ordinances may need to be looked at in relation to businesses opening. Asks DDA to perhaps establish a stance on any ordinances related to business development and share it with council to broaden their perspective.

1. **New Business – none**
2. **Adjourn**

**Donna motions, Bruce seconds, all in favor, meeting is adjourned at 9:40.**

***FOR YOUR CALENDAR:***

***DDA Regular Board Meeting August 10, 2017***

Posted July 10, 2017