

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

## **March 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Hal Williams, Larry Odom, Denson Martin, Mike Miller, Chris Welch, Tony Owens, Donna Logan

**Partners Present:** Lou Stewart, Gary McCullough, Bruce Howerton, Michael Clemons

**Staff Present:** Joel Cordle, Shea Wages

Larry called meeting to order at 8:50 AM

**I. Approve February 12 meeting minutes** – A motion to approve the February 12 minutes was made by Hal, and seconded by Denson. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

**II. Approve financial report** – Joel asked the board to refer to the January financials included in the board packet. He itemized the February expenses. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Chris, seconded by Hal. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

### **III. Announcements from partner agencies**

- City of Dahlonega - Lou announced that work is proceeding on the city's parking issues. They are purchasing 4 free parking signs, 1 three hour parking sign, and waiting on stencils for the three hour parking spaces on the south side of the square. Lou also highlighted that the city will be lighting and cleaning up around the fence/building of the old elementary school property in order to open it up for free parking. City Councilman Michael Clemens spoke of the alcohol ordinance and that from now on any violation of this type will go to municipal court. Parking violations will go to the judge.
- University of North Georgia - Bruce Howerton announced that the University hopes that the convocation center's design phase will be included in the state budget. He noted that the university has ended their lease with the city on the BB&T parking lot. Bruce helped introduce the goals of the Academic Master Plan to the Board. He also noted that the vacant Campus Commons storefront has been leased.
- Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Office – There was no Chamber representative.
- Historic Preservation Commission – Joel referred to HPCs previous minutes included in board packet. Joel pointed out that the Corkscrew owners may appeal the HPC's ruling on paint removal. He also reported that there are several new HPC board members.
- Dahlonega 2000, Inc. - Joel referred to the bank statement in the packet, announcing that North Grove Hall repairs are complete and therefore there are no other outstanding projects.

**IV. Staff Report and Event Volunteers Request** – For January 23<sup>rd</sup> – February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Board Members received a copy of the staff report. Joel highlighted the major projects worked on during the previous month. There was emphasis made on the rescheduled events for Arbor Day and Celebrating Success Property Investment Celebration, and hosting upcoming events like the National Main Street Mobile Tour, state historic preservation conference, and GMA Heart and Soul Bus Tour.

### **V. DDA-Main Street Four Point Projects**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. Support Council on Parking Strategies - Hal announced that he took strategies from the previous committee meeting to council. Council took action on the recommendation of 3 hour parking limit. He reiterated that the city is waiting on stencils. Michael Clemons announced the city school will be used as a parking spot. Lou announced city attorney is working on parking ordinance revisions.
2. Support Downtown Job Growth - There has been no committee meeting yet.
3. Inventory of Available Spaces & Prospects – Joel referred to the inventory sheet included in the board packet and stated that the Pond Docs Building is available.

#### **ORGANIZATION**

1. Promote Downtown Safety & Security - There has been no committee meeting yet.

#### **PROMOTION**

1. Increase Downtown Shopping with Retail Promotion & Advertising - Joel reported on the upcoming Shop Local Campaign meeting with the Chamber and The Nugget.

#### **DESIGN**

1. Support Streetscape Construction for Pedestrian Safety & Landscape Improvements – Joel reported about activity on right of way and easements, waiting on response from impacted property owners.
2. Conduct Walks with Partners to Pinpoint Issue Areas & Monitor Implementation of Findings — The next project date is Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 8-10 p.m.
3. Expand Dahlonga Stories History Plaque Program - Shea announced that she has begun working with Bruce Howerton on UNG's plaque for the South Chestatee property.

**VI. New Business** - Hal announced that the Holly Theater has been offered space use at the Cannery for the Holly's children's program.

Hal also made a motion to consider DDA compensation as the city's next budget is prepared. This was seconded by Donna. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

**VII. Adjourn** – Hal made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tony. All present unanimously approved the motion. Larry adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.