

DAHLONEGA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/MAIN STREET BOARD

September 11, 2014

Minutes

Board members present – Hal Williams, Tony Owens, Donna Logan, Denson Martin, Chris Welch, Larry Odom

Board members absent – Mac McConnell

Partners present – Bill Lewis

Staff – Joel Cordle, Rebecca Shirley

Denson called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM

I. Approve July 10 meeting minutes - A motion to approve the July 10 meeting minutes was made by Hal, seconded by Donna. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

II. Approve financial report - Joel asked board to refer to the financials included in the board packet. The report included year to date expenses through August 31, 2014. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Donna and seconded by Tony.

III. DDA-Main Street Four Point Projects

ORGANIZATION

1. Elect interim Chairman and Vice Chairman –Joel asked the board to refer to the official letter of resignation of chairmanship from Chris and the recommendations for chairman and vice-chairman included in the packet. A motion to approve the recommendation as presented, Denson as chairman and Hal as vice-chairman, was made by Tony and seconded by Donna. All members present unanimously approved the motion.
2. Support Designation of S. Park St. Residential Historic District and Expansion of Existing Downtown Commercial Historic District to S. Chestatee, E. Main, N. Grove – No report on this item.
3. Assist Council with Downtown Master Plan Implementation – No report on this item.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Work with Partners on Regional Center for Business & Investment– There was discussion about whether UNG may have submitted a request for design money in an upcoming state budget request, perhaps for July 2016 funding, if approved.
2. Support City Council on Parking Management – no report on this item.
3. Develop Downtown Arts Strategies Engaging Arts Groups for Economic Development – no report on this item.
4. Support Master Plan Catalytic Real Estate Projects and Property Owners Development/ Redevelopment of Strategic Sites – Joel reported on the North Park Street RFQ. There were 2 qualification packages received. The project team will get together next week to review and then schedule interview/presentations.
5. Keep Inventory of Available Spaces & Businesses Seeking Spaces – Joel asked the board to refer to the board packet with the inventory sheet of properties and prospects.

PROMOTION

1. Support Downtown Shopping with Retail Promotion & Advertising – Rebecca reported on the August shop local/ STS event, new shop local brand, 2nd Thursday event assistance, website redesign, and Pinterest promotions.

DESIGN

1. Support Streetscape Construction for Pedestrian Safety & Landscape Improvements– Joel reported on the GDOT Final Field Plan Review held yesterday. Request for bids is scheduled for May/June 2015 for phase 1.
2. Conduct Walks with Partners to Pinpoint Issue Areas & Monitor Implementation of Findings – Rebecca reported that there is still following up work being done on previously submitted items.
3. Expand Dahlonega Stories History Plaque Program – Rebecca reported a plaque has been ordered for the Catholic Church, should be available for installation in 6-8 weeks.

IV. Staff Report – Board members received a copy of the staff report. Rebecca and Joel reported on the major projects worked on during the previous month.

V. New Business

1. Joel reported on a future resolution that will be brought to the board in support of a lodging business expansion project the Welch Family is working on that may involve low interest loans through Ga. Cities Foundation and DCA.
2. Joel provided an update on FY15 budget and the 2015 DDA-council service agreement included in the board packet for review.
3. A motion to approve the annual agreement between the DDA and the City as presented in the packet was made by Hal and seconded by Donna. All members present approved the motion. This item will be on the Council agenda at the October meeting. Second, a new agreement drafted for DDA & Dahlonaga 2000, Inc. is included in the packet for the board's review. The purpose is to provide better documentation of the relationship between the 2 agencies. City Attorney also recommended expanding the Dahlonaga 2000 board by 2-3 members. Joel will be asking for a committee to review the by-laws and approve the service agreement at the October meeting.

VI. Announcements from partner agencies

1. City of Dahlonaga - Bill Lewis, interim city manager, reported he is aware of the landscaping neglect town, Hancock Park, trashcan repair, etc. Should see improvements within the next few weeks. Bill reported Mr. Cason has filed a lawsuit against the city & DDA regarding the land use and rezoning at the old water plant.
2. Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Office – No report on this item.
3. University of North Georgia – No report on this item.
4. Historic Preservation Commission – Joel asked the board to refer to last month's meeting minutes in the packet.

VII. Adjourn

- Tony made a motion to adjourn, Donna seconded the motion, and all members present unanimously approved the motion. Denson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.