

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

## **August 8, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

Members in attendance: Hal Williams, Tony Owens, Denson Martin, Chris Welch, Larry Odom, Mac McConnell

Members Absent: Donna Logan

Staff Present: Joel Cordle, Jim White, Shea Wages

Partners Present: Ron Thomas

Partners Absent: Gary McCullough, Amy Booker, Jay Markwalter

Chris called the meeting to order at 8:47 AM

I. Approve August 8 meeting minutes – A motion to approve the August 8, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Hal, seconded by Denson. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

II. Approve financial report –

- Joel asked the board to refer to the financials included in the board packet. He highlighted expenses and balances. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mac, seconded by Denson. All members present unanimously approved the motion.

III. *DDA Task Force Reports*

### **ORGANIZATION**

1. Update on Water Plant Property – Joel reported formal notice to abandon the option has been received from Connect North Georgia. Repairs are complete and local prospects to be shown property.
2. Report on Chamber TPD grant application for restroom remodeling – Joel reported on grant application
3. Support City Council in Park Street Area Historic District designation & Downtown Historic District expansion and design guidelines – Hal reported HPC is reviewing.
4. Assist council with implementing Downtown Master Plan (assist funding ordinance/zoning cost) – No report.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. Explore Univ. of North Georgia bonds sponsorship; support convocation center – Mac reported that he was meeting on 8-18-13 with Phillip Wilheit (next year's Regents Board Chair) to discuss the project. The working name for the project is "The Regional Center for Business Innovation". A hotel market study is needed.
2. Support city council in parking management plan – No report.
3. Develop downtown arts strategies, support facilities – Hal reported UNG Art Studios were opening in the old Baptist Church/Folkways Center. Reports from local art business galleries have been positive. Holly Gala is on 8-17-13. \$70K goal.
4. Support master plan catalytic real estate projects, property owners' development/ redevelopment of strategic sites – Joel reported a growing interest from single-family residential developers.
5. Keep inventory of available spaces & businesses seeking spaces – Joel asked the board to refer to the packet with the inventory sheet of properties and prospects.

### **PROMOTION**

1. Plan and implement retail promotion & advertising – Chris reported Comcast summer ad campaign on HGTV has ended.

### **DESIGN**

1. Support design & construction of streetscapes – Chris reported construction documents ready at end of September, with bids due in January.
2. Expand Dahlonega Stories historic plaque program – Joel reported the Carriage House Shoppes plaque is installed.

**IV. Staff Report** – Joel presented a copy of the month's activity report and highlighted projects

**V. New Business** – Sally Sorohan contacted DDA and asked for support with Windstream problems.

### **VI. Announcements from partner agencies**

- City of Dahlonega – Ron Thomas reported on LOST court case.
- Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Office – No report.
- University of North Georgia – Mac reported the Fall session is starting up, 6000 enrolled, 850 Cadets. Chance that 2014 graduation ceremonies will be held in Gainesville.
- Historic Preservation Commission – No report.

**VII. Adjourn** - Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Hal. All members present unanimously approved the motion and adjourned at 10:00 AM.