

Perry Main Street
Regular Board Meeting
Jan. 8, 2015
Minutes

1. Welcome: President Scragg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Director Loudermilk gave the invocation.
2. Roll: President Scragg, Directors Bill O’Neal, Marty Myers, Terre Walker, Sandi Smeltzer, Brian Jones, Joe Brownlee, Mildred Hardison and Bill Loudermilk.

Absent: Directors Nancy Waters, Beth McLaughlin and Angie Gheesling

Staff: Main Street Coordinator Catherine Edgemon and Trisha McMillan, Recording Clerk
3. Review December 4, 2014, meeting minutes
After reviewing the minutes of the December 4, 2014, meeting, Director Walker made a motion to approve them as presented. Director Loudermilk seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes unanimously.
4. Review and approve December 2014 financial statement
After reviewing the December 2014 financials, Director Walker made a motion to approve them. Director Brownlee seconded the motion. The board approved the financial report unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. Discussion about Main Street board status – On Jan. 7, 2015, President Scragg met with Director Bill O’Neal, Main Street Coordinator Catherine Edgemon and Economic Development Director Robert Smith to discuss whether Main Street would stay independent or merge with the city. President Scragg said she promotes merging with the city. President Scragg said the City Council provides substantial support for the program already. The board discussed the merger and possible changes to the program’s structure. Director Walker made a motion that Main Street explore the possibility and desire to become an agency of the city and that the executive committee work out details and bring back to the board after they meet with the council. Director Brownlee seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 6-1. Director Hardison opposed the motion.
 - b. Vote for new Secretary/Treasurer –A motion was made by Director Loudermilk to elect Terre Walker as the new Secretary/Treasurer of Main Street. The motion was seconded by Director Marty Myers and unanimously approved.
6. New Business - None
7. President Items
 - a. Bench funding request from Design Committee – Per Ms. Walker, chairman of the Design Committee, the original bench proceeds went to buy more benches, trash cans, etc. The DDA decided to use that funding for media grants. Ms. Walker added that at this time the benches at the downtown courthouse need to be replaced, and the quote they have been given is \$1,000 per bench. The only funding the Design Committee has is \$5,000 for facade grants. The Design Committee’s proposal is that the bench program funds revert back to the

Design Committee's budget so they can buy the benches. Although there is only \$1,500 in the bench fund now, Ms. Walker feels that council will match the funds. Director Loudermilk asked if Bob Taylor had been asked to build the benches. Ms. Walker said Mr. Gilmour had not been in favor of Mr. Taylor building them, but she could bring the suggestion to his attention again. Director O'Neal will ask the artist that is doing the latest sculpture for the arts center if he is interested. The Promotion Committee will meet and decide yes or no.

b. Buzzard Drop recap – President Scragg reported that the Buzzard Drop was a successful event, and approximately 3,000 people attended. According to Director Smeltzer the Buzzard Drop was among of New Year's Eve events the Georgia Department of Economic Development listed in Georgia. Director Myers recommended promoting the 2015 New Year's Eve as "Dec. 31 Buzzard Shop" and ask merchants to have specials and stay open and/or leave lights on. Director Walker asked that a cost benefit analysis be done on the Buzzard Drop, and Director Smeltzer offered to provide one.

8. Main Street Coordinator's Report

a. Ms. Edgemon told members that Main Street should receive a certificate in April saying Perry is an official Main Street community. Main Street will then be working on maintaining annual accreditation. Ms. Edgemon also announced that the 2015 National Main Streets Conference will be Mar. 30 – Apr. 2 in Atlanta. She encouraged board members to attend for at least one day if possible. Attendees will be from Main Street cities across the nation, not just Georgia.

9. Committee Reports

Design Committee – Director Walker reported that the Design Committee had permitted signs for Hi-Town and Arrowhead at 801 Commerce Street and had also approved a façade grant for exterior painting at 1201 Main Street.

Promotion Committee – No official meeting was held.

10. Update on Downtown Development Authority

- a. Ms. Edgemon said she is working on the program outline for the DDA's proposed local revolving loan fund program.
- b. Perry Industrial Building Authority has \$250,000 in their bank account. Ms. Edgemon said she is trying to learn if there is any way the DDA would be eligible to receive any of that funding to help with the DDA's proposed local revolving loan fund program.
- c. On Jan. 28 Ms. Edgemon and some DDA members will visit Milledgeville to learn about their BOOST micro-grant program and other downtown redevelopment activities.

11. Certificates of Appropriateness issued - list distributed to members

12. Other

Director Smeltzer announced that the Georgia Fairgrounds will be hosting a STEM competition on Feb. 28 called First Robotics, and the event should bring 2,500 people to the area. There will be high school kids from all over the South in Perry for the event.

Director Loudermilk announced that the Georgia Artisan Center has 50 artists now and had its best month yet in December.

13. With no further business, the Main Street Board adjourned at 6:10 p.m.