

Perry Downtown Development Authority
Minutes - October 27, 2015

1. Call to Order – Chairman Grossnickle called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll: Chairman Grossnickle; Directors Bryan Fountain, Brian Burnham, Lee Jones and Carl Lumpkin were present.

Absent: Tish Hayward and Kelly Hillis

Staff: Catherine Edgemon – Main Street Coordinator, Robert Smith – Economic Development Director and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk

Guests: Ms. Becky Powell, Mrs. Terre Walker, and Laura Corley – Macon Telegraph

2. Invocation – was given by Director Fountain

3. Guests/Speakers

- a. Becky Powell – Georgia Artisan Center – Ms. Edgemon introduced Ms. Powell to the board and advised she would be the “cheerleader” for the BOOST program. Chairman Grossnickle thanked her and welcomed her to the meeting.

Mrs. Terre Walker, chairman of the Main Street Design Committee, updated some of the committees’ current projects, which included bike bollards that will be installed in front of the Coffee Cup, replacing benches on Main Street behind the former courthouse with backless benches, dressing up the sidewalk on Carroll and Jernigan Street by the soda fountain shop, and addressing the sidewalk at Commerce and Jernigan.

4. Old Business

- a. Update on Davida’s BOOST grant project – Ms. Edgemon advised she has been in contact with the owner and they have been having trouble with getting the vendor out to complete the work. Per the program’s guidelines there is a 90-day time limit; however, in this case the delay is through no fault of the recipient. Ms. Edgemon inquired of the board if they would like to extend the completion time limit. Director Fountain motioned to extend the BOOST completion time limit to 120 days; Director Jones seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

5. New Business

- a. Review and approve August 25, 2015 minutes

Director Fountain motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Director Jones seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- b. Review and approve August 2015 and September 2015 financial statements

Director Fountain motioned to approve the financials as submitted; Director Jones seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

c. Request reallocation of budgeted city funds

Ms. Edgemon advised when the budget was set \$4,200 was set aside for the required annual audit and the contract was signed for this amount, however the actual cost was \$3,200, leaving an additional \$1,000. Ms. Edgemon inquired of the board if they would like to request the Council to reallocate the funds. Chairman Grossnickle inquired if it could be put towards BOOST; Ms. Edgemon advised the request could be made. The consensus was \$500 would go towards BOOST grants and \$500 towards promotion/advertising of the BOOST program. Director Lumpkin motioned to request reallocation of a \$1,000 left after audit expenses be used for the BOOST program; Director Fountain seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

d. Discuss sale of advertising on tram as fundraiser

Ms. Edgemon advised she had come across information the DDA had used previously for fundraising advertisements on the City tram and asked for input from the board. Director Lumpkin advised he recalled various sign sizes were sold to local businesses for annual advertising on the City tram, which ran for the three parades, historic tours and other events. The board felt the matter should be reviewed further as it could be a potential fundraiser to support the BOOST program. Ms. Edgemon will re-work the funding structure of the available advertisement spaces and requested a motion on the intended uses of the funds collected.

Director Jones motioned to proceed with tram advertising and to allocate funds for the BOOST program; Director Fountain seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

e. Discuss possible location(s) for dedicated tour bus parking downtown

Ms. Edgemon advised she had been requested to ask where the DDA would recommend if the City were to designate parking spaces for tour buses. Chairman Grossnickle inquired if there is a need for this; Ms. Edgemon advised to date there has not been, but preparation work is being done. Director Burnham inquired if RV parking could also be considered and how is marketing for this done. Mr. Smith advised the Conventions & Visitors Bureau would handle that aspect. On conclusion of discussion it was the boards' recommendation that drop off location be behind the Old courthouse on Main Street with parking at the former Jaycees building.

f. Discuss possible trolley route from GNFA to downtown

Ms. Edgemon advised she has been researching communities with trolleys and Perry's possible use would not just be for the fair, but for large events to bring visitors downtown. She has found most communities do not use a trolley as a shuttle bringing visitors into their downtown to drop off, but rather for tours with no stops, and some are run as private businesses. Chairman Grossnickle inquired if there would be funding from the fairgrounds to provide a service for their visitors to downtown. Mr. Smith advised at this time discussions with the fairgrounds were being held, but they had requested a plan from the City and it would have to be brought back forth to their board.

g. Discuss alley improvements project – Secretary/Treasurer Hillis – tabled until next meeting

6. Work plan review – Ms. Edgemon reviewed and advised the board is current on tasks.

7. Chairman Items

- a. Discuss second round of BOOST grant applications in November and awards in December

Ms. Edgemon inquired about the time line for the December awards. The board agreed to issue a press release immediately with the application deadline of Nov. 18 and grant awards being done before the Christmas holiday. Director Fountain motioned to proceed with press release for next round of awards with a \$1,000 being available for grants; Director Lumpkin seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- b. Board members Grossnickle, Hillis and Lumpkin's terms end in 2015

Chairman Grossnickle advised he would be stepping down from the board at the completion of his term this year, thanked everyone for their time and said he has enjoyed working with everyone.

Chairman Grossnickle requested the board think about a multi-use area for events such as the farmers' market, outdoor music, etc. There had been previous discussion regarding this, and he felt it was still a worthwhile avenue to pursue.

8. Main Street Coordinator's Report – Ms. Edgemon reviewed the report

9. Update on Main Street Board Advisory Board – Ms. Edgemon advised of upcoming downtown events the board is supporting, which include Sweets and Treats on Downtown Streets, Small Business Saturday and the Buzzard Drop.

10. Certificates of Appropriateness issued – Ms. Edgemon reviewed the report.

11. Adjourn – There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.