

Main Street Advisory Board
Minutes - April 3, 2025

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll: Vice Chairman Moore; Directors Anderson-Cook, Lay, Presswood and Walker were present. Chairman Cossart via teleconference.

Staff: Alicia Hartley – Downtown Manager, Bryan Wood – Community Development Director, Ansley Fitzner -Public Works Superintendent, Anya Turpin – Visit Perry Executive Director, and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk.

2. Guests/Speakers - Ms. Heather Anderson

Ms. Fitzner presented PowerPoint from board discussions on downtown landscaping which included direction from the city manager to provide conceptual designs with creative freedom. Each block on the downtown core was reviewed with proposed designs and implementing artwork. The question was asked who will maintain and fund; Ms. Fitzner advised there is a full-time employee for the downtown and the city will fund. Director Moore asked where the project would start; Ms. Fitzner advised behind city hall and the farmers market; most likely.

Ms. Turpin advised the FMCA concert was a success and has received positive feedback; the group will be back in two years. Bouquet stroll will be posted on social media this evening.

3. Citizens with Input – None

4. Old Business

- a. Review draft of 2025 Work Plan – Ms. Hartley in follow up to the retreat updated the draft presented last month which includes board members' responsibilities and a budget and asked for any additional comment/input. It was noted the plan is more robust and will be a working document that will be updated and edited as required. The board had no additional input.

5. New Business

- a. Certificate of Appropriateness Review – 725 Commerce Street

Mr. Wood reviewed the staff report which was a request to add handicapped parking. A gravel parking lot already exists on the side of the building and this request will add a paved parking pad for handicap access. The new parking pad will be located approximately 40 feet from the edge of the public sidewalk along Commerce Street. Some re-grading of the existing lot will be necessary to accommodate the paved parking pad. The design guidelines require a wall to screen new parking lots. Since modifications are being made to the existing lot, it is appropriate to require screening. However, since the lot is not directly adjacent to the sidewalk, landscaping (evergreen shrubs) is an appropriate screening material. Staff recommends approval of the application, subject to a row of evergreen shrubs (18 inches in height at the time of planting) being installed along the length of the new paved parking pad on the street side.

Ms. Anderson advised the planter boxes were removed as approved and because of the shared driveway with the barber shop the spot as planned would be facing the building and to add shrubs would block access. Also, the building official advised their contractor that the space would need to be two feet longer. Mr. Wood advised he was not aware of that. Ms. Anderson advised she is willing to comply, but is not understanding the requirements fully, and is trying to open the business to serve the community. Mr. Wood advised the board there are some questions staff needs to answer from the building side, but the application could be approved as submitted so as to not further delay the applicant.

Director Presswood motioned to recommend approval of the application as submitted; Director Lay seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- b. Certificate of Appropriateness Review – 917 Carroll Street
- c. Façade Grant – 917 Carroll Street

Mr. Wood advised the pink color selection as submitted is not in the approved color palette, the door color is similar to one in the palette and with the applicant not being present, advised the board could elect to approve the door color or table the application.

Director Lay motioned to table the application for the COA and façade grant until the applicant is available to be present; Director Anderson-Cook seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved to table the May meeting.

- d. Approve March 6, 2025, minutes

Director Presswood motioned to approve as submitted; Director Lay seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- e. Approve February 2025 financials

Director Anderson-Cook motioned to approve as submitted; Director Lay seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- f. Adopt 2025 Work Plan

Director Anderson-Cook motioned to approve the plan as presented; Director Walker seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

6. Chairman Items –None

7. Downtown Manager's Report

- a. Downtown Projects update – Ms. Hartley advised the Board of Education demolished 1202 Main Street, Madi Grace boutique was sold, and The Bold Kind will be opening in mid-April. Recommendation of sidewalks and crosswalks at Northside Drive. Lunch & Learn with the Office of Downtown Development on historic preservation commissions will be April 24th. Memorial bench is installed for Bill Loudermilk, dedication on April 9th. Council approved applying for the Flint Energies mural grant; submitted AARP grant for parklets on the Ball/Main Street lot. Ms. Hartley provided upcoming training opportunities.

8. Promotion Committee Report – Ms. Hartley provided update on ticket sales for wine tasting. May 9th flower crawl will begin social media promotions. And working on a Popsicle Pop-Up in mid to late July.
9. Other – Director Walker advised they are planning their one-year celebration for June 14th.
10. Adjourn – there being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

Approved 05.01.25