

DDA Meeting
June 15, 2016

DDA Members present:

Executive Board Chairman: Carey Jackson,

Executive Board Members: Debbie Ray, Alice Glenn, Vance Foster, Dennis White, Rebecca Metzger

Executive Board Members absent: Stephanie Crump

Advisory Board Members present: Helene Brown, Pat Harper, Nancy Hardigree, Debra Taylor DuBeau, Tammy Hutchinson, new member, Suzanne Barfield

Absent: Gretchen Torrence, Dru Ann Williams, Barbara Rhodes, Colleen Oberg, Dillon Bowers, Elaine Hartness, Maureen Holder, Pudge Smith, Beth Mathews, Earl Johnson, Darcy Maixner, Barbara Rhodes, Tina Chapman

Director: Henley Cleary

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Carey Jackson.

Since there was no quorum present in May, there was no meeting so no minutes were taken.

Alice Glenn read the Treasurer's report.

Chairman's remarks-Carey Jackson thanked Kathy Bryant for the many contributions she has made as both an executive board member in several capacities and now in the advisory role. Carey also thanked Tina Howard for her participation on the Executive Board as well as chairman of the Economic Vitality committee. Tina will now become the chairman of the Organization Committee. Carey introduced Michelle Wetherbe who will be the new Economic Development Chair.

Marshall Sayer, who has just been elected to become the County Commissioner representing the 3rd district, was introduced as our guest.

Committee Reports:

Promotions: Helene Brown, Chair (create a positive image to rekindle community pride and improve consumer and investor confidence)

First Saturdays-Helene reported that it continues to be a success at the Swamp Bar's location

Dancing on Depot – Helene circulated a list of workers and times for the June 24th event.

Design: Debbie Ray, Chair (goal to get historic downtown Hartwell into top physical shape)

Mural has been completed. No more names can be added because it has been sealed to protect it from vandalism and weather. There has been a suggestion to add a black border might be put around the mural.

Constitution Alley-This committee is gathering prices for a later report. The project will be done in three stages: a clean up of vegetation, lighting (hope we can work with the city on this), and landscaping. Vance Foster has suggested an iron worker who might do an entrance gate if budget allows. Project will be worked on in Sept.

Crosswalks- Pat Harper, subcommittee chair, is considering using linoleum offered by Bowers Flooring for stencil material. We will be designing a variety of symbols for crosswalks on Depot area streets: Hopscotch on Carolina, music notes near High Cotton, theater masks near the Community Theater. Sailboats will be added as well. Suzanne Barfield, new advisory board member, volunteered her husband and his soccer field machines to assist with the painting of the stencils.

Economic Vitality : (strengthen community's economic assets while diversifying the economic base) Henley announced she will be working with Barbara Cronic of Athens First Bank, and SBDC to schedule classes for merchants on how to start a new business, expand an existing business, write business plans, etc.

Organization (Goal is to build partnerships among various groups that have a stake in the commercial district) No report.

Director's Report: Henley Cleary

Henley reported the following items:

The DDA sent a sympathy note to James Harbin, a city Street Dept. friend of our organization, who lost his wife last week .

Henley has been in contact with both the CVS officials as well as the Pure Oil owners regarding the DDA taking ownership of the Pure Oil property.

We are still pursuing the Linder house on Johnson as either a tear-down or abandoned property. The co-owners are Lynn Pruitt and Spencer Linder.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Tammy Hutchinson
Secretary