

DDA Meeting
June 21, 2017

Executive Board Members present: Carey Jackson, Rebecca Metzger, Vance Foster, Stephanie Crump, Alice Glenn

Executive Board Members absent: Debbie Ray, Dennis White

Advisory Board Members present: Helene Brown, Deb Dubeau, Pudge Smith, Michelle Wetherbee, Darcy Maixner, Barbara Cronic, Earl Johnson

Absent: Gretchen Torrence, Dru Ann Williams, Barbara Rhodes, Colleen Oberg, Beth Matthews, Pat Harper, Susanne Barfield, Tina Howard, Kelly Brooks, Beth Matthews, Beth Mewborn, Maureen Holder

Director: Henley Cleary

Hartwell Sun: Michael Isom

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m by Chairman Carey Jackson.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Alice Glenn and approved.

Committee Reports:

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

First Saturdays – The June First Saturday went well. There need to be DDA volunteers present to man the money and beer tickets. The non-profit will man the beer. There need to be shifts so that the same people are not working the whole night.

Steve Crump suggested there be a DDA volunteer who knows how to assemble and disassemble the stage so that there is a backup if he is not available.

We are preparing for Dancin' On Depot. Helene passed around the schedule in order for DDA volunteers to fill in the last few time slots that have not been filled. Kiwanis and Rotary are both helping again this year.

Alice Glenn explained how the Christmas Tree Lighting event was begun by Service League and then handed over to different groups over the years. Earl Johnson explained that once the County purchased the current tree and had input on how the event should be run that it could be construed that it is, in fact, a County Commissioner event that the DDA has facilitated over the past years.

Helene reiterated that the DDA will no longer take on the Christmas Tree Lighting as an event. It has been suggested to the Chamber that they take it on in conjunction with the annual Christmas Parade since the Chamber is funded by the County. Also, combining the events would be less taxing on community volunteers. DDA volunteers are willing to help with the event but they will no longer be in charge of the event.

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

In Debbie's absence Henley announced that we are still waiting for the metal sign for Constitution Alley to be finished by the Stephens County welding class. Now that school is out we will have to wait until the next semester begins.

Henley has been in touch with Terrell Partain about the lack of maintenance in the planting beds at the courthouse. The DDA volunteers cleaned out all the beds, as agreed, in order to get them at a good starting point for maintenance. There has been no maintenance performed and all the weeds have grown back.

The flower baskets continue to do very well with the weekly rains we have had all month. There has been no need for weekend watering.

Economic Vitality- Michelle Weatherbee, Chair

Michelle mentioned that there will be one more meeting concerning the County Comprehensive Plan. She also mentioned that there is an Economic Task Force being created. The first order of business for the group is the lack of affordable housing in the community.

Director's Report

Rolling Chefs will be ready to open sometime in the coming week.

- There was a Ribbon Cutting for "Molly Cate's" last Thursday.
- There will be a ribbon cutting for Creative Alterations this Thursday at 5PM at 37 S Forest. Henley requested that board members try to attend these Ribbon Cuttings to show their support for new businesses.
- A construction representative came to talk to Chris Lack about renovating Pure Oil. He will send his report to CVS for their decision.
- BettyFays has closed
- Two buildings on Depot St. have been purchased by an investor. Henley said that she has been in touch with two different groups who may be interested in leasing both buildings.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Henley Cleary for
Tammy Hutchinson, Secretary