

DDA Meeting
July 19, 2017

Executive Board Members present: Carey Jackson, Vance Foster, Stephanie Crump, Alice Glenn, Dennis White

Executive Board Members absent: Rebecca Metzger, Debbie Ray

Advisory Board Members present: Helene Brown, Michelle Wetherbee, Darcy Maixner,

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, Debra Dubeau, Pudge Smith, Barbara Cronic, Earl Johnson

Director: Henley Cleary

Hartwell Sun: Michael Isom

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m by Chairman Carey Jackson.

The minutes of the June 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)

Helene thanked everyone for their help with Dancin' On Depot. She went over suggestions for next year based on feedback at the Promotions Committee meeting. There was a loss of \$4688.88 before taking into consideration annual sponsorship money for the year that will cover that loss. There was discussion about changing things up next year with a different band and, possibly, a different entry fee.

August First Saturday is August 5. We are collaborating with the Hart Regional Art Center. They will be providing additional volunteers to help with the night and we will split the proceeds with them.

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

In Debbie's absence Henley announced that more work was completed on the crosswalk project on Depot St. We will wait to do more artwork once the temperatures have cooled.

The flower baskets were taken down and returned to Sunny Hill to be replanted with more drought tolerant plantings. A volunteer from The Humane Society has offered to water the baskets on the weekends. That will make a huge difference.

Economic Vitality- Michelle Weatherbee, Chair

Michelle mentioned that there should be a vote at the August meeting by the City Council on putting Sunday Sales on the November ballot.

Michelle reported that there is a Housing Task Force in place to study and make recommendations on needed housing in the community.

Director's Report

- ✓ BettyFays location has a contract with a Sushi Restaurant that will be opening its second location in Hartwell
- ✓ Corner Store was purchased and the owner has met with a local business owner about moving into the space
- ✓ Tri-County Lenders has opened on Carter St. in the former Mexican grocery store location
- ✓ Candler-Linder property is back on market for \$53,000 plus closing costs
- ✓ Forest Ave mural – we are talking with the muralist about making some changes to the mural based on public feedback
- ✓ Leadership Hart Art Project is under way. The first sailboat is in the window of the Art Center. The class hopes to encourage other community entities to purchase boats
- ✓ Downtown Hartwell Merchant Family – merchants group is up and running. They meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 12 South on Forest Ave. They are already working on several plans for downtown merchants.
- ✓ Habitat For Humanity fencing - We have been in conversation with The Humane Society about getting volunteers to build them a fence under their canopy so that when people drop off items they will not be visible from the street. Henley reported that Darlene Nixon has been working on signage and how to avoid unsightly items being left when they are not open.
- ✓ Discussion with HCCT about including movies as part of their community entertainment. They are very receptive and we will be meeting with their board to have further discussions.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Henley Cleary for
Tammy Hutchinson, Secretary