

DDA Meeting
January 18, 2017

Executive Board Members present: Carey Jackson, Alice Glenn, Rebecca Metzger, Dennis White, Debbie Ray

Executive Board member absent: Stephanie Crump

Advisory Board Members present: Helene Brown, Tammy Hutchinson, Maureen Holder, Earl Johnson, Deb Dubeau,
Absent: Gretchen Torrence, Dru Ann Williams, Barbara Rhodes, Colleen Oberg, Barbara Cronic, Beth Matthews, Pat Harper, Nancy Hardigree, Pudge Smith, Suzanne Barfield, Michelle Weatherbee, Tina Howard, Kelly Brooks, Darcy Maixner,

Director: Henley Cleary

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m by Chairman, Carey Jackson.

There were no minutes from the December meeting since it was a luncheon meeting only.

Alice read the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

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

Helene announced that at the most recent Promotion mtg. we assessed the success of the **Tree Lighting** held in Nov. We will make a few changes which are noted in the end-of-event discussion.

All committee members will be signing up in advance for individual help needed at all of our events.

We need to tie **Girls Night Out to Shop Local/Hartwell Sun** effort. We hope to have more merchants participating. To this end, we hope to hold more merchant meetings this year.

1st Saturday – Will now be held on Depot St. in May, June, and August with the Dancing on Depot event considered the July evening. Steven Crump will purchase the stage. Bands will be paid for by sponsors. The DDA will be responsible for the Port-a-Potties and publicity costs, and will be selling beer and water. We hope to have local restaurants offering to-go dinners. Carey Jackson offered to donate his Snow Cone machine.

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

Debbie announced the following plans for the 2017 year:

Baskets- Have been freshened with silver bows for winter months. Will be taken down in early March, to be planted with new liners and plants by Sunny Hill nursery and hung in April for summer viewing. We need to check with friends or experts on ways to keep summer flowers blooming with drought resistant flowers, special additions to baskets, etc. Dennis White and his crew will be watering our baskets during the week .

- Henley will look into options for weekend watering. Henley mentioned most cities pay for landscaping companies to plant and care for their baskets .
- Dennis mentioned the “pullout areas” around the corners of the courthouse. They need replanting or alternate solution.

Constitution Alley- Lights have been installed on the alley.

Courthouse Grounds-The BOC will vote on the watering system for the courthouse at their meeting next Tues at 5:30 p.m We are all encouraged to attend.

Crosswalks- Should be done by end of April for the First Saturday event on Depot.

Façade Grants: We continue to get requests for grants. Southern Traditions has received one. Several other new businesses are in the process of applying.

Earl Johnson mentioned Wade Gaines's Foundation might be able to help bring music to Depot St. Henley has been talking with some Atlanta sound producers.

We discussed the possibility of returning live music to the courthouse grounds once the repairs have been made.

Director's report:

Henley announced in Tina's absence, that they are interviewing applicants for the APP. Hope to have ALL businesses be a part of it, then have it grow through Partnership program.

Ilka, from Athens Tech, will be sending us a list of classes that they will be offering to our merchants. These include bookkeeping, technical courses. Anna Strickland, our new Archway person, will be in town next week making plans for UGA's assistance in Hartwell community. Need to let merchants know about new courses being offered.

Candler-Linder house- will be demolished in next two wks. Savannah River is contemplating buying property once the cost of the demolition and sale of the property is known. The idea is to make it an outdoor venue with future indoor live theater

Pure Oil –Henley sent the property owner the packet of bids for repair of the building. The interested business is awaiting the decision by the owner to restore the building.

Group comments: Dennis White offered possibility of being able to use monthly City Utility bills to send notice of forthcoming DDA activities. Also the estimated and year-end tax bills might be ways to publicize our events.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Tammy Hutchinson
Secretary