



MEETING MINUTES

As Chairman McDowell and Vice Chair McNiece were absent, Secretary Herring declared a quorum and welcomed members to the meeting at 8:37am. Members present: Ann Pullen, Steve White, Alice Herring, and Barbara Ware. Absent: Steven McDowell, Evie McNiece, and Jay Shell. Staff: Ann Arnold, Amanda Carter, and Patrick Eidson. Media present: Doug Walker, Rome News Tribune. Guest: Charles Love and Bryan King. February Minutes were approved on a motion by Pullen, second by White.

ACTION ITEM

Façade Grant Recommendation - Pullen presented a façade grant recommendation from the Design Committee for 3 East 6th Avenue in the amount of \$500 with a total project cost of \$1,522.50. Repairs consist of replacing the canvas awning with 8" valence and 13 letters. The canvas is green. Pullen stated that the property is located near Swift & Finch and is not in the historic district. On a motion by Ware, second by White, the \$500 grant was approved with all members in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach - Ware stated the previous Coffee Break hosted by David Prusakowski State Farm was well-attended despite the icy weather conditions. The next Coffee Break will be hosted by Rome Cleaners at their new location.

Design - Pullen updated the members on a new project to fund supplies for the temporary canvas paintings when renovations are taking place. The committee approved to allocated \$200 on three projects during the year. Bryan King, Planning Department developed guidelines for the project. There will be a review committee consisting of Arnold, Pullen, King, and Eidson. Currently, there is a painted canvas at the old Darling Pets property. The Design Committee is working on a new banner project. As the current banners are in bad shape and require lots of maintenance, the committee would like to order new banners to install on the period light poles. Arnold is meeting with the street department and planning department for approval. The design is not yet finalized. The banners are to be paid out of the capitol budget; brackets will be funded out of the BID Improvement fund. The design committee plans to install 15 new historic plaques this year. King has been working on plans for Historic Preservation Month in May. Street lighting looks great and is an on-going project.

Promotion - Carter informed members that the committee voted to have a block party in May and July while having Bridgepoint Plaza concerts in June, August and September. The Apocalyptic block party is set for October. This weekend will be very busy downtown as several St. Patrick's Day events will take place.

Parking - *We Validate* Parking signs have been posted at businesses that validate. The committee continues to get the word out about the program. They are continuing to work on the action plan and have made committee assignments.

Business Development - The committee will host loft tours later in the year.

BID - Arnold stated the commission met yesterday and they are currently at 36% and making good progress. She expects them to exceed 40% by next week. The plan is to go before the City Commission in April.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Director's Reports - Arnold distributed a handout received Tuesday at Downtown Day at the Capitol. It details helpful information such as total net jobs in downtowns across Georgia, volunteer hours, public/private investment, etc. Arnold encouraged members to keep an eye out for emails pertaining to updates on legislature. She summarized the new monthly report that was provided in the packet. As of February end, there were a 4 net businesses total and 10 net jobs. The pilot being filmed in downtown will impact downtown. Filming will take place on the 2nd Ave and Ave and 5th Ave bridges and on the river side of the 200 block on March 30 and 31. Staff will distribute information to businesses. Members were encouraged to take advantage of the special \$100 board rate for attending the national conference for one day. The opening session takes place on Monday at the Fox Theatre with a reception following. This is the first time Georgia has hosted the national conference. The group from Wyoming will arrive on Friday, March 27' have dinner at La Scala and go on a driving tour. Volunteers are needed for the walking tours on Saturday morning between 8:30am and 10:30am. The focus will be on the Riverwalk/Town Green, Housing, Parking, and Hotel Development. Ware, White, Pullen, and Walker all volunteered. White will ask the Exchange Club for volunteers. Staff will send "welcome" signs to post. Arnold, McNiece and Eidson will attend an award ceremony in Athens on April 13th to receive the Four for the Future Award; awarded for the downtown master plan. Rome will be featured in GA Trend Magazine in April. We recently hosted the cities of Woodstock and Villa Rica to discuss parking and downtown development. The Dark Side of the Moon DCA loan was just closed. Rome will host the Heart & Sole Bus Tour once again on May 13 and 14. This is a GMA tour and Rome's third time hosting.

Other - Guest, Charles Love, from the North Rome Community Development Neighborhood Association introduced himself and stated he is very interested in learning more about development. Eidson stated Love is very passionate and they are very excited about new things happening soon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08am.
Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Carter, Recording Secretary