

CORNELIA



DOWNTOWN  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY

# DDA/Main Street Board Meeting

## AGENDA

Thursday, April 6, 2017 8:30AM  
Cornelia Depot

1. Meeting called to order- Brian Horton called meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.
2. Adopt Agenda- Motion was made by Don Higgins, seconded by Amanda Chosewood
3. Financials- Loan fund has \$183,116.67; Operating has \$3,158.98; Façade had \$5,549.45
4. Old Business
  - A) Work Plan 2017- We are still waiting on 4PM to give us a proposal on the Bank and other buildings in Downtown. Brian spoke with Tom yesterday and was promised a proposal in time for the Commissioners retreat on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We are in a bit of limbo with the building because the first third of the building we can't include in the historic preservation tax credits. In order to qualify for those, we would have to put the building back to its original state, which was marble. However, we can still the other two sections of the building, as their original facades were brick.
  - B) Bigg Daddy's- Jessie says to please go by and look at the front of the building. It has been completely changed and is totally different. They are going to open on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lindsey and Jessie have been working closely together to make sure everything runs smoothly. They won't be open for the BBQ, but they will be doing the beer garden in apple tree alley.
  - C) Application for board member- Heath Barrett- The Barrett Agency, Owner- Everyone on the board knows who Heath is. He has experiencing in banking, was born and raised in Habersham, owns his own business and is very involved with the Chamber and the Cornelia Business Association. A motion was made to nominate him as a the next candidate to fill the last open seat on the board by Brian, seconded by Amanda, and all were in favor. The application will go in front of the commissioners at the May meeting.
5. New Business
  - A) City Manager Update- The City has taken over management of Chenocetah Tower so you can expect to see some cleaning up in there and also having the tower open on some Saturdays. Dee and Jessie plan to have a business after hours there sometime soon. We will start to include advertising the open hours in our marketing campaigns. There was detailed discussion about the need for more signage for not only the Tower, but also throughout downtown. Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> will be a ribbon cutting at our new community garden on Hoyt Street at 11:30 a.m. After some discussion, Brian mentioned a program that Habersham county qualifies for called a new market tax credits. It's for new developments in the county. It's applicable for housing, retail and industry. Jessie will look more into this for more information and possibly add it to our incentive package for new developments.
  - B) Apple Blossom Competition- Jessie said that there were enough teams to make our competition sanctioned and we are good on that front. She said that she is basically ready

for the event, just the minor details still to be done. She said that last year, there was a hefty cost involved with this event, but this year, there is a possibility that we will break even. Brian asked her to send the link for the volunteers to sign up out to them and they will try to recruit people to work it.

- C) Farmers Market- A local farmer approached Brian about starting a farmer's market in Cornelia, but needed a space so that the vegetables don't sit in the sun during the summer and wondered if the Depot would be available. After some discussion, the consensus was that it was completely welcome. It could promote the train museum and promote healthy eating and stimulate the economy all at the same time. It is a win-win. Brian said he would send the man to Jessie's office to discuss further.
6. DDA loan- Refinance- Brian said that we are going to pay \$100,000 on the loan and then modify the payments. This will bring our monthly payments down to approximately \$1,500 per month and we will still have plenty of funds to pay that.
7. Apple Blossom Competition April 22; VFW Jamboree May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Cornelia City Park- It will be hosted by the VFW, DAV, and American Legion. Everyone should go support the veterans and enjoy the day!
8. Next Regular Board Meeting: **Thursday, May 4, 2017** at the Depot
9. Adjourn