

Minutes
Newton Business Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 12, 2015
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall

I. Open Business Meeting – The meeting was called to order at 3:13 pm.

Attendance: Jerry Hodge, Josh Cummings, Amy Powell, Lisa Crump and Joe Beaman (3:45 pm)
Absent: Tom Warlick, Tony Jarrett and Donny Setzer
Visitors: Mayor Anne Stedman
Staff present: Assistant City Manager Sean Hovis

II. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Amy Powell, second by Lisa Crump and the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ongoing Business and Updates

- BAC Annual Meeting:
 - Jerry Hodge reported attendance was lower this year with approx.. 100 attendees from businesses.
 - Jerry Hodge spoke about expenses being less but still being calculated. Thought approx.. \$475.00 revenue was generated.
 - Members discussed options for next year in getting better attendance such as date, time, etc.
 - Jerry Hodge reported 1 BAC priorities is annual meeting and now 1 of 10 BAC priorities is completed.
- DNDA Update:
 - Josh Cummings reported DNDA setting their calendar a year out.
 - Josh Cummings reported DNDA is closer to finishing the job descriptions for the DNDA.
 - Josh Cummings reported Main Street Conference in Morganton March 18, 19 and 20.
 - Josh Cummings reported Two Pink Magnolia's receiving Main Street Champion and Carolina Vines receiving award.
 - The lease agreement is being reviewed between the DNDA and Anne Wepner and is final stages. .
 - Josh Cummings reported State Cinema has two digital cameras now. Hoping to get third one. Also that Lisa McCoy has been doing lots of rehab work and the area is very clean now.
 - Josh Cummings reported that the State Cinema has applied for façade grant with DNDA and has some conceptual designs for new signage.
 - Josh Cummings gave an update about Newton Noggin wanting it to roll out next month.
- Wayfinding:
 - Sean Hovis said post for signs have been delivered to Bizzell and back of signs also. Waiting on the faces of the signs. Bizzell is hoping to start putting in some foundations for signs weather permitting.

- Streetscape:
 - Anne Stedman reported next public input meeting is March 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the OPOP.
- Strategic Planning- Public meeting schedule:
 - Mayor Stedman reported that the first meeting was on Economic development and there was a lot of good information given by members of the WPCOG.
 - General discussion on some of the demographic information that was presented.
 - Mayor Stedman reported next Strategic Plan public input meeting is this evening at 5:30 pm in the Gantt Room at City Hall.
- Harris Teeter Property:
 - Sean Hovis reported that plans have been submitted to staff and are currently being reviewed.
- Business Incentives
 - Jerry Hodge said business incentives are part of the BAC 2015 work plan.
 - Sean Hovis passed out the business incentives from other jurisdictions that Todd Clark put together.
 - Sean Hovis advised that the City recognizes some of our incentives may not be as strong as others but Newton's is stronger than lots of other locations.
 - Jerry Hodge advised members to take the packets home and review and come back to BAC with recommendations that they can take to City Council.
- Business Districts:
 - Committee discussed going out to various business districts about possibly hosting the BAC meeting. Need to build relationships in various business districts.
- Property Tour:
 - Jerry Hodge advised that a date needs to be set for this.

III. Other Business

- Joe Beaman gave an update on Abernethy Laurels' expansion plans.
- Joe Beaman invited members to Abernethy Laurels Friday March 20 at 9:30 am for the press conference capital campaign.

V. City Staff Report

- Sean Hovis gave a report on City-related matters.

VI. Next Meeting – Thursday, April 09, 2015

VII. The Meeting Adjourned at 4:25 p.m.