

Newton Business Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 8, 2014
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Second Floor Conference Room at Newton City Hall

Minutes

- I. **Business Meeting** was opened at 3:15pm. In attendance: Donny Setzer, Tom Warlick, Jerry Hodge, Jeremy Petty, Joe Beaman, Josh Cummings. Absent: Nick Martin, Tony Jarrett, Don Essary. Others in attendance – Rob Powell.
- II. **Minutes of the April 10, 2014 Meeting** were approved with the correction of adding Rob Powell, Max Sigler, and Jessica Setzer to the list of attendees to the NC Main Street Conference. (Motion-Hodge; 2nd-Cummings)
- III. **Ongoing Business and Updates**
 - Outdoor Bonanza fund-raising event – the Committee discussed the need to create a Bonanza Steering Committee
 - DNDA – Chairman Jerry Hodge stated that the DNDA was actively recruiting new members and still pursuing the reinstatement of 501(c)3 status. The Committee unanimously approved support for efforts to fund the work of the DNDA including a full-time manager for the DNDA/Main Street program. Discussion continued with the suggestion that as an alternative to hiring a Main Street manager, the City could embark on a program to create public/private partnerships for the renovation of downtown buildings
 - Newton Noggin Update – Josh Cummings stated that this program could not move forward until a management organization could be put into place or until the 501(c)3 tax-exempt status is granted to the DNDA and the DNDA is ready to handle the project
 - Logo / Branding – Josh Cummings and Jerry Hodge updated the Committee on Council's logo discussions
 - Planning Commission Report - Donny Setzer stated that business-friendly ordinances and ordinances to protect our downtown assets were still being considered by the Planning Commission and those recommendations would be forthcoming.
- IV. **New Business**
 - Rob Powell reported on the status of the wayfinding and streetscape projects. The installation of the wayfinding sign plan is partly funded in the current year budget, but the start of construction is pending the approval of the plan by NCDOT. Additional funding for wayfinding signs and for a downtown streetscape design plan will be a part of budget discussions for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
 - Rob Powell provided a brief overview of the Electricities Retail Leakage Report. The review of this report was continued to the next meeting due to time limitations.
- V. **Next Meeting – June 12, 2014** – The Committee decided to come prepared for a new photo at the June meeting so that the City web site information could be updated.
- VI. **The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.**

Rob Powell - SECRETARY