

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
September 22, 2014
6:30 pm

Executive Director's Report

1. August 28 – Rural Economic Development Boot Camp (Greenville, FL @ Honey Lake Plantation)
 - a. Sponsored by DEO, Enterprise Florida, Visit Florida, Duke Energy, Gulf Power and others.
 - b. Gray Swoope, Secretary of Commerce and CEO of Enterprise Florida was the emcee for the event. The DEO Executive Director, Jesse Panuccio, Rep. Halsey Beshears, Rep. Martie Coley, and Sen. Bill Montford were all present and spoke to the group.
 - c. Breakout sessions dealt with site selection and the competitive nature in the rural economic development process, legislative updates and agendas for the 2015 session, how to take advantage of the membership with Visit Florida.

2. September 3 – Met with Dan Evans (DEO) regarding the scope of our **\$18,500** grant that we have been awarded. The Department was impressed with our proposed scope of work to complete our community visioning and developing our Strategic Community Vision Plan. At my initiation, changes have been made to update the timeline of the deliverable schedule and to change the number of visioning workshops. The revised scope was submitted to DEO on 9/5. According to DEO, we can expect to be under contract for this grant in mid-October.

3. September 3 – Initial meeting for the Sheriff Morris A. Young Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. The date for the walk is set for October 24. Chattahoochee is the planned finish line for the 35 mile walk on US 90 (from the Ochlockonee River to the Apalachicola River). We have been asked to secure the location for the closing ceremony and to organize having music and to assist with recruiting food vendors.

4. September 9-11 – Florida Main Street Conference (Stuart, Florida)
 - a. 3 new communities received Main Street designations
 - i. Cocoa Beach
 - ii. EDGE District (St. Petersburg)
 - iii. LaBelle
 - b. Excellent Work Sessions
 - i. Colorado Avenue Walking Tour (Dan Burden)
 - ii. Trails to the Community (Charlie Johnson)
 - iii. Main Street Perry – Defunct to National Accreditation (Tracie Smith)
 - iv. Hosting Downtown Events
 - v. Zoning & Form Based Codes
 - vi. Why Your Main Street Needs to be a CLG
 - vii. Focus on Historic Landscapes
 - viii. Restoring Vacant Buildings (Sharlene Cannon)
 - c. Floridians for Prosperity Through Preservation (Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits)

5. September 15-16 – North Florida Economic Development Academy (Tallahassee)
 - a. The four day event (2 days in Sept. and 2 days in Oct.) sponsored by the Florida Institute of Government at Florida State University and the North Florida Economic Development Partnership.
 - b. Spent the first day learning about our own personality types and the types of others to help give perspective on how different personality see things to facilitate how to work together. Talked about the players involved in economic development and their roles. The second day was focused on community strategic planning and the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC). Overall, the academy is designed to provide a basic understanding of the concepts and methods of EcDev and to help local communities build a stronger team that is able to recognize, prepare for, and respond to opportunities.
 - c. Part II will be held on October 9 & 10.
6. September 22 – Tonight, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners will finalize the 2014/2015 Budget. We are to receive **\$5,000** this year for the Main Street Downtown Banner Project. We are preliminarily approved to receive \$5,000 each year for the next 3 budget years.
7. October 3 – The Florida-Alabama Mega Team has invited us to attend a Campaign Unveiling Luncheon at the Florida Welcome Center on US 231 (FL/AL state line) in Campbellton (Jackson County).

This is a luncheon for elected and business leadership in partnering Alabama & Florida counties to announce a joint mega-site marketing and attraction effort for a large industrial user. Any such user will in turn attract a supplier network. The GCDC has begun the process of identifying industrial sites near I-10 and assessing development potential. Users will only consider sites for which much of the site planning, engineering and permitting are completed and those that have utilities on site.

It would be valuable for members of our Economic Restructuring Committee to participate in this event. We need to RSVP to Susan Estes (Opportunity Florida) at (850) 633-4118 or email at susane@opportunityflorida.com. Networking at 11:00AM, Program at 11:30AM, and Lunch at Noon. Also, any questions can be directed to Beth Kirkland (consultant director of the GCDC) at bethkirkland@live.com.

8. October 20 – Next Gadsden County TDC Meeting
9. October 24 – Sheriff Morris A. Young Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
10. October 27 – Main Street 101 (R.A. Gray Bldg) in Tallahassee
11. November 3 – 3rd Community Visioning Workshop at the FSH Chapel at 6:30pm.