

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
November 24, 2014
6:30 pm

Executive Director’s Report

1. October 28 – Mr. Bernie Howell and I represented Chattahoochee Main Street at an economic development workshop that was co-hosted by the GCDC and the BOCC at the IFAS Center. The workshop was designed to be an interactive session with several stations set up regarding various economic interests, including tourist development, Quincy CRA, local industrial parks, Chattahoochee Main Street, and others. Representatives from DEO were in attendance to formally announce Gadsden County’s award in to the Competitive Florida Partnership Program.

The Competitive Florida Partnership Program is designed to provide technical assistance to rural communities to help value and market local assets and challenge these communities to set realistic goals for advancing their economic development vision.

2. October 31 – Held our first official meeting of the Economic Restructuring Committee. This meeting was led by committee chairman, Bill Enfinger. Committee members present included, Mr. Bernie Howell, Council Member Annette Bates, Dick D’Alemberte, Wayne Chandler, and Ben Chandler.
3. November 4 – The Board and I met with Jason Johnson (Omega Technologies) to discuss setting up the framework for Chattahoochee Main Street’s website.
4. November 9 – Dedication ceremony for the placement of the historic marker commemorating the 200th anniversary of the construction of Nicolls’ Outpost.
5. November 10 – The Department of Economic Opportunity sent a scanned copy of the fully executed grant agreement for the \$18,500.00 technical assistance grant. This enables us to move forward with our next community visioning workshop and development of our draft Strategic Community Vision Plan.
6. November 10 – An exploratory meeting was held at the FSH Chapel to with interested citizens to discuss community resources we have to establish a “Chattahoochee Historic Museum”.
7. November 12 – Attended the monthly GCDC meeting.
8. November 17 – Submitted a letter of support to the Gadsden County Planning Department endorsing the County in its application for a 2015 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 to assess hazardous substances and petroleum product impacted properties.

9. November 18 – Economic Restructuring Committee met with Mayor “Champ” James to discuss immediate goals for economic development. In addition, Mr. Keith Bowers (Regional Director for the Small Business Development Center). Housed in the FAMU School of Business & Industry is part of a large network that has access to extensive database, business research resources, and a host of experts who can help entrepreneurs and business owners successfully navigate the obstacles that come with innovating, launching growing, renewing and transitioning a business.

A workshop will be scheduled for Mr. Bowers to present information to the City Council about the resources the Small Business Development Center can provide to businesses in the City of Chattahoochee at no cost to the end user.

10. November 18 – The City of Midway, led by Dorothy Inman-Johnson (City Manager) and Delores Madison (Mayor Pro-Tem) conducted a Small and Minority Business Support Workshop. Beth Kirkland (GCDC), Keith Bowers (SBDC), Lyn Blaise (Florida Black Business Support Corporation & Access Florida Finance Corporation), and David Gardner (Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce & Gadsden County Economic Development Council) served as presenters and panelist. The purpose of the workshop was to provide information and a connection to resources for existing and aspiring businesses in the City of Midway. These same resources are available to business in the City of Chattahoochee.
11. December 8 – The 3rd Community Visioning Workshop will be held at the FSH Chapel at 6:30pm.
12. January 5 – Our next quarterly report is due to Florida Main Street.
13. January 23 – First deliverable under the technical assistance grant due to be submitted to DEO. This deliverable consists of the public participation summary, a synthesis of all input received, and the strategic planning themes and overall goals.
14. January 26-27 – Florida Main Street Quarterly Meeting in New Port Richey. The focus on this quarterly meeting will be promotions, fundraising, and sponsorships.