

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

Executive Director’s Report

1. I am continuing to work with Jason Johnson (Omega Technologies) to work out the framework and initial content for Chattahoochee Main Street’s website. This is an ongoing process.
2. December 2 – Attended the Board of County Commissioners workshop where presentations were given by the Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) and the Chamber of Commerce/Gadsden County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) to provide information to the BOCC for allocating funding for economic development for the current fiscal year. No vote was made in their subsequent business meeting and the decision was continued for their meeting to be held on December 16.
3. December 8 – The 3rd Community Visioning Workshop was held at the FSH Chapel. We are now under contract agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity to continue our visioning process. This meeting was held to begin to develop goals associated with the strategic themes that have emerged during the public participation process.
4. December 9 – The Economic Restructuring Committee met to discuss moving forward with strategies for enlisting available resources and expertise for assisting our community with economic redevelopment strategies. This includes working with the Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC), Chamber of Commerce/Gadsden County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and organizing workshops/presentations with the City Council in the upcoming weeks.
5. December 10 – At the invitation of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, I attended a roundtable discussion with Congresswoman-Elect Gwen Graham. This meeting included county officials, business and community leaders. Ahead of taking office in January, she is on a district-wide job-promotion tour to meet with local officials to discuss job-needs issues.
6. December 10 – Following the meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, Chattahoochee Main Street Vice-President, Bernie Howell, and I joined City Manager, Lee Garner, in a meeting with Congresswoman-Elect Gwen Graham to discuss economic and environmental issues specific to the City of Chattahoochee.
7. December 15 – Attended and participated in the kick-off meeting for the Competitive Florida Partnership program. The Competitive Florida Partnership Program is a program administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) that 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.

8. December 15 - Following the kick-off meeting, representatives from DEO, Gadsden County Planning Department, and the GCDC spent the afternoon in Chattahoochee taking a tour of the historic River Landing (led by Dale Cox providing a history of the Apalachicola River, Nicolls' Outpost and Scott's Massacre), George Floyd's property and proposed site development plan (led by Bernie Howell), the restored arsenal/powder magazine (led by Jim McKnight), and a walking tour of downtown and the Angus Gholson Nature Park (led by Ben Chandler).

This opportunity provided an insightful tour to our visitors that will help serve to promote our City through the Competitive Florida Partnership program and to help bring awareness to public officials serving our area. Officials participating in this tour included:

- **Bill Killingsworth** (Director of Community Planning, Department of Economic Opportunity)
 - **Julie Dennis** (Program Manager for the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, Department of Economic Opportunity)
 - **John Reddick** (DEO)
 - **Dan Evans** (Management Analyst, Department of Economic Opportunity)
 - **Dan Pennington** (DEO)
 - **Beth Kirkland** (Director/Consultant for the Gadsden County Development Council)
 - **Allara Mills-Gutcher** (Director, Gadsden County Planning & Community Development Department)
 - **Jill Jeglie** (Planner, Gadsden County Planning & Community Development)
9. December 16 – Attended the BOCC workshop and subsequent business meeting regarding budget allocation for economic development funding. The BOCC voted 3-2 in favor of the GCDC to serve as the primary economic development entity in the County.
 10. January 5 – Our next quarterly report is due to Florida Main Street.
 11. 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. This will be a substantial documentation of the process we have been through and will include information from the Florida Main Street Resource Team Visit.
 12. January 26-27 – Florida Main Street Quarterly Meeting in New Port Richey. The focus on this quarterly meeting will be promotions, fundraising, and sponsorships.