

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
April 27, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director’s Report

This report covers the months of March and April since the Historic Structures Survey Workshop and the Competitive Florida “Community Conversation” Workshop were held during the regularly scheduled Chattahoochee Main Street monthly meeting held on March 23.

1. February 25 – Mr. Chandler and Laura Lee Corbett met with staff and the Gadsden County Property Appraiser’s office to finalize the mapping for the coverage area of the Historic Structures Survey.
2. February 27 – Mr. Chandler attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new Goodwill Industries facility in Quincy. This new facility provides 24 new local jobs and also provides workforce training opportunities for the Gadsden County.
3. March 3 – Received \$5,000.00 budget allocation from Gadsden County to start the downtown Main Street banner program.
4. March 3 – Mr. David Gardner (Executive Director, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. Rob Nixon (BRE Consultant, Gadsden County Development Council) attended the City Council’s monthly business meeting. Mr. Gardner provided support for Chattahoochee Main Street’s economic development efforts and gave information about the proposal for a new type of collection box being used by Goodwill Industries. Goodwill would like to locate one of their new collection boxes in Chattahoochee for convenience of our community. Mr. Nixon provided an update on the BRE efforts that are ongoing in our community.
5. March 9-12 – The US Army Corps of Engineers, provided a tour of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River basin area for the new Commander of the South Atlantic Division, Brigadier General C. David Turner. The tour began in Columbus, GA and included visits to Phenix City, AL; Eufaula, AL; Dothan, AL; Bainbridge, GA; Chattahoochee, FL; and Apalachicola, FL.
6. March 9 – Mr. Chandler went to Apalachicola to meet with Mayor Van Johnson, Betty Webb (City Manager), George Floyd (Apalachicola Maritime Museum), Pat Floyd (City Attorney), and Dan Tonsmeire (Apalachicola Riverkeepers) to discuss and plan the agenda for the closing meeting of the US Army Corps of Engineers tour of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint River Basin. This tour was conducted for the new South Atlantic Division Commander, Brigadier General C. David Turner.
7. March 10 – Mr. Chandler attended and participated in the monthly GCDC business meeting representing Chattahoochee Main Street. A presentation was given by the editor of 850 Magazine. The GCDC is planning to partner with the magazine for promoting businesses in the County and economic development.

8. March 11 – Mr. Chandler participated in a meeting of the GCDC’s BRE Consortium. Mr. Rob Nixon presented the interview/survey form that will be used going forward when meeting with existing businesses. It is planned to have two go to these interviews. One to conduct the interview and one to record. It will be important to have two sets of eyes and ears to be sure that correct information is recorded.

9. March 11 – The USACE tour came through Chattahoochee to meet at the Corp’s Resource Office and to tour the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam. The CMS Board of Directors and I had an opportunity to meet with Brigadier General Turner and his staff and discuss our concerns for the health of the river and its economic development and eco-tourism potential.

10. March 12 – The Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Apalachicola City Commissioners hosted a breakfast and presentations on flows and navigation on the Apalachicola River. This event was held to honor the visiting USACE Commander, Brigadier General C. David Turner, Colonel Jon Chytka, Captain Samuel Walker, and 1st Lt. Richard Naseer.

The breakfast event was held at Tamara’s Café in Apalachicola. Mayor Van Johnson, County Commissioner Joseph “Smokey” Parrish, and I provided welcoming and opening remarks. This was followed by presentations by the following:

Shannon Hartsfield, Chair, SMARRT and Franklin County Seafood Works Association

- River Flow Effects on Apalachicola Bay Seafood Harvesting Industry

Steve Rash, Franklin County Seafood Dealers Association

- River Basin Flow Effects on Apalachicola Bay Seafood Dealers

Chad Taylor, Coordinator, Riparian County Stakeholders Coalition

- RCSC Six County Coalition Structure
- Importance of Working Together on River Basin Issues
- Proposed Water Shed Recovery and Management Plan

Dan Tonsmeire, Apalachicola Bay and Riverkeeper

- ABARK Support for Recreational and Commercial Navigation
- River Flow Return to Floodplain
- Need for Geomorphic Assessment

George Floyd, Apalachicola Maritime Museum

- Utilization of New Technologies for Navigational Channel Maintenance
- Flow Regime and New Approaches
- Need for Improved Navigation at Critical Choke Points

11. March 12 – Karen Marsh and I attended the first of a series of Community Conversations for the Competitive Florida Partnership program. The workshop was held in Quincy and serves as the first public meeting regarding the grant with the Department of Economic Opportunity. Gadsden County is a recipient of an award from DEO for economic development initiatives. This initiative will result in the creation of several economic development strategies and/or policies to further economic development in Gadsden County.

12. March 15 – Local author and historian, Dale Cox, led an event at the historic marker for Nicolls’ Outpost on the large Indian Mound at the River Landing to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Nicolls’ Outpost. It was 200 years ago that British officers signed a treaty with chiefs of the Apalachicola Seminole, Miccosukee, Yuchi and Red Stick Creek Indians. It was the last treaty ever signed between British and the American Indians in the Eastern US.
13. March 19 – Pam Medley, Karen Marsh, Mayor Champ James, and Mr. Chandler represented Chattahoochee in attendance at the Chamber of Commerce’s most recent Go-Gadsden event held at the IFAS Center in Quincy. Skip Foster, President and Publisher of the Tallahassee Democrat gave a presentation on growth of the Tallahassee Democrat’s reach through mobile devices and the opportunities to promote economic development through this medium. This regularly scheduled meeting always serves as a very important county-wide networking opportunity for our community. Plans are still be developed to hold a Go-Gadsden meeting in Chattahoochee.
14. March 19 – The Economic Restructuring Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Bill Enfinger, Mr. Dick D’Alemberte, Ms. Annette Bates, Mr. Bernie Howell, Mr. Wayne Chandler, Mr. Rob Nixon, and Mr. Ben Chandler attended.
15. March 23 – a Preliminary Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan was submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity for initial review and comment. This document serves as an interim deliverable for the final product that will be due May 29 under terms of the technical assistance grant received from DEO.
16. March 23 – Instead of our regularly scheduled monthly Chattahoochee Main Street meeting, two (2) very important workshops were held. The first workshop was led by Laura Lee Corbett, consultant and architectural historian, providing information and a community update regarding the historic structures inventory that is currently underway. As of now approximately 150 of the 500 surveys have been completed.

In addition, the County conducted a Community Conversation workshop for the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. This workshop was identical to the one held in Quincy. Copies of the workshop summary are available.

17. March 30-April 2 – The 2015 National Main Street Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA. Pam Medley attended as a representative of Chattahoochee Main Street.
18. March 31 – *Competitive Florida Asset Mapping Team Visits*
As a part of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, and in an effort to spur economic development in our area, state & regional partners from the DEO, FDOT, Department of State, Enterprise Florida, NFWMD, ARPC, etc., visited places throughout the county that have been identified as assets important for the economic development of the community. For our area, the county and state identified and visited the following four local assets:

- Apalachicola River / Blueway
- Florida State Hospital

- Arsenal/Powder Magazine
- Chattahoochee Main Street

The information gathered in these team visits will be used to determine needs in the community and brainstorm potential projects to be included in the Gadsden County Economic and Tourism Development Strategy.

19. April 1 – On Day 2 of the Competitive Florida Community Asset Mapping Exercise, the four teams met at the IFAS Research and Education Center in Quincy to pool their findings and evaluate the top assets in Gadsden County and brainstorm enhancements or improvements as potential recommendations for the Gadsden County’s economic development strategy.

Each team presented its observations and recommendations. Afterward, there was a discussion among all participants offering input on other team recommendations or observations.

20. April 7 – Mr. Chandler attended a workshop sponsored by the Florida League of Cities, entitled “Tools That Work for Economic Development.” This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss best practices and innovations and for participants to network with other professionals.
21. April 8 – Mr. Chandler and Pam Medley were invited to the Chattahoochee Woman’s Club April luncheon and Mr. Chandler was given an opportunity to give a presentation that included an update on the community visioning process, the historic structures survey and the Competitive Florida Partnership Program. It was an honor to be invited for that opportunity as the Woman’s Club has been and continues to be a great partner and supporter of Chattahoochee Main Street.
22. April 10-11 – Chattahoochee Main Street participated in the Flea Across Florida event. The event garnered \$1,268.32.
23. April 14 – Mr. Chandler attended the monthly GCDC meeting for the month of April. Mr. Stewart Proctor of Structure Commercial Real Estate provided a brief presentation discussing his company’s partnership with the GCDC in assisting with developing the County’s database of target properties to promote.

As an example 33 Washington Street (Old IGA) is listed on the GCDC’s website as well as Enterprise Florida as a developable target property for Chattahoochee.

24. April 16 – The Economic Restructuring Committee held its April meeting. Mr. Bernie Howell, Ms. Annette Bates, Mr. Wayne Chandler, and Mr. Ben Chandler attended.
25. April 21 – Mr. Chandler presented the Preliminary Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan in a public workshop with the City Council. The Department of Economic Opportunity has reviewed this preliminary draft and provided comment as to form and content. This document is available for public review and further opportunities will be provided going forward for additional public input.

26. April 29 – Mr. Chandler will be meeting with Allara Mills-Gutcher (Gadsden County Planning & Community Development Director), Pam Fuqua (TDC Executive Director – Jackson County), and Heather Lopez (TDC Executive Director – Washington County regarding the Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan. Dale Cox has served as the project manager for this project for both Washington and Jackson Counties. He will be meeting with us as well.

Gadsden County is seeking funding to continue this master planning effort for US 90 through Gadsden County. Both Washington and Jackson Counties received DEO technical assistance grants for this planning effort. The County Planning Department is trying to find out if Gadsden would be eligible to receive two (2) DEO technical assistance grants in one year as they will be applying for a technical assistance grant to continue with the Competitive Florida process. If they cannot, they will plan to apply next year to continue the Historic Highway 90 Master Plan effort.

27. April 30 – The GCDC's Business Retention & Expansion Consortium has scheduled two (2) meetings with local business owners. This will officially kick-off the BRE Consortium Corporate Visitation Program in Chattahoochee.

These visits are conducted to better understand the business's structure and needs so that they can be matched with available resources and partnerships to help them be more successful and grow. These visits are designed to help identify threats and opportunities (both internal and external). After each visit, the team will prepare a summary and highlight any requests and needs from the business. An intervention plan will be developed where necessary. The BRE Consortium partners with other resource providers to further assist these local businesses. Follow-up is a key aspect of the consortium to ensure that the appropriate resources are made available. As we all know, the best business recruitment tool is a strong existing local business base and is the primary reason this program has been developed.

28. May 1 – Funding requests for non-profits / community organizations are due to Gadsden County's Office of Management & Budget.
29. May 12 – The GCDC, in partnership with Opportunity Florida, is hosting a regional economic development forum from 10am-3pm at Creek Entertainment Gretna. The keynote luncheon speaker is Eric Canada of BlaneCanada on economic development marketing and BRE. Five separate panels will be held on Industrial Development, Infrastructure, Workforce, BRE and Community Development. Mr. Chandler has been asked to participate as a panelist for the Community Development discussion.
30. May 21 – The Chattahoochee Woman's Club will be officially celebrating its 100th Anniversary.
31. May 29 – The final deliverable of the Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan is due to the Department of Economic Opportunity.