

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
May 18, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director’s Report

1. **April 29 – Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan.** Mr. Chandler met with Allara Mills-Gutcher (Gadsden County Planning & Community Development Director), Pam Fuqua (TDC Executive Director – Jackson County), Heather Lopez (TDC Executive Director – Washington County) and Dale Cox regarding the expansion of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan. Dale Cox has served as the project manager for this project for both Washington and Jackson Counties. It is a plan to identify and promote the historical resources along the US 90 corridor.

We received word last week that the Gadsden County Planning & Community Development Department will be 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. It is hopeful that Holmes and Walton Counties will join as well.

Chattahoochee Main Street will be a partner in this effort if the County receives the grant.

2. **April 30 – GCDC’s Business Retention & Expansion Consortium’s Business Visitation Program.** Rob Nixon and have conducted two (2) business visitations thus far and are working on the response packages. We will schedule more visits after the response packages have been completed. Specifics on who the consortium meets with are kept strictly confidential. The business owners may publically share information at their discretion.

These visits are conducted to better understand our local 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). The BRE Consortium partners with other resource providers to further assist these local businesses.

3. **April 30 – Historic Structures Survey.** The 2nd deliverable, which consisted of a draft report and sample surveys were submitted to the Bureau of Historic Preservation. This project continues to be proceeding on schedule.
4. **May 1 – County Funding Requests for Non-Profits/Community Organizations.** Funding requests for non-profits / community organizations were due to Gadsden County’s Office of Management & Budget to be considered for inclusion in next fiscal year’s County budget. CMS submitted a \$5,000.00 budget request to add to our current approx. \$2,600.00 set aside for downtown beautification.

In an effort to control litter in our downtown commercial district and make it more inviting, the requested funding would be used to initiate Chattahoochee Main Street’s beautification efforts by replacing the existing downtown sidewalk garbage cans with new, substantial, and more attractive designer trash receptacles. These proposed receptacles would be constructed of

powder coated steel with a corrosion-inhibitive finish that would protect against chipping, cracking, and UVA damage. These receptacles would be strategically placed on each block along Washington Street (US 90) in the downtown commercial district.

5. **May 12 – Regional Economic Development Forum.** The GCDC, in partnership with Opportunity Florida, hosted a Regional Economic Development Forum at Creek Entertainment Gretna. Approximately 100 people were present representing entities and municipalities throughout the county, adjacent counties, and regional and state economic development initiatives. The keynote luncheon speaker is Eric Canada of BlaneCanada on economic development marketing and business retention and expansion. Five separate panels were held: Industrial Development, Infrastructure, Workforce, BRE and Community Development. Pam Medley and Ben Chandler attended and Mr. Chandler had the privilege of participating as a featured panelist for the Community Development discussion.
6. **May 19 – Gadsden County BOCC Workshop.** The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners will be holding a workshop on Tuesday, May 19 at 4:00pm to discuss the development of an Economic Development Incentives Grant program which will allow the BOCC to offer incentives to businesses desiring to locate or expand in Gadsden County. The outcome of this process will be to determine how businesses meet the criteria and qualify to receive this incentive grant funding.
7. **May 20 – Florida Main Street Quarterly Meeting.** The Florida Main Street Quarterly Meeting will be held for a single day session in Ocala. Renowned preservationist, Don Rypkema will be the featured presenter. Mr. Rypkema is the Principal of PlaceEconomics and has been commissioned by Florida Main Street to produce a definitive report on how Main Street contributes to the state's economy and local main street communities.

If you cannot attend the Quarterly Meeting, Mr. Rypkema will be at the Rotunda Rendezvous on Tuesday, May 19 (5:30-7:30pm) at the Old Capitol Rotunda in celebration of National Historic Preservation Month. This event is free and open to the public. This event will feature Secretary of State Ken Detzner. Attendees will participate in a critical discussion about the economics of historic preservation and sustainability and address the impact on our community through a moderated question and answer session.
8. **May 21 – Chattahoochee Woman's Club.** The Chattahoochee Woman's Club will be officially celebrating its 100th Anniversary.
9. **May 27 – CSS Chattahoochee Commemoration.** A brief ceremony will be held at 11:30am to honor the men who perished in the tragedy. This will be the 152nd anniversary of the tragedy which took place on the Apalachicola River near Blountstown on May 27, 1863. Historian and author, Dale Cox, will be on hand to provide a historical account of the event.
10. **May 29 – DEO Technical Assistance Grant.** The final deliverable of the Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan is due to the Department of Economic Opportunity. A final invoice will be submitted to DEO for \$10,500.00.

11. **May 31 – DEO Technical Assistance Grant Application.** Technical Assistance Grant Applications are due for Fiscal Year 2015/16. This is the same grant category that CMS applied for and received last year to facilitate the community visioning process. This year, CMS will be submitting a scope to develop the Historic Main Street Design Standards.
12. **June 1 – Historic Preservation Matching Grant Application.** The Department of State's Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historic Resource's Small Matching Grant Applications are due for Fiscal Year 2015/16. CMS will be assisting the City of Chattahoochee in pursuing and securing funding for the next phase of the Historic Structures Survey that is currently underway. This scope will focus on the next 500 pre-1970 structures within the city limits of Chattahoochee.
13. **June 3 – Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.** The next Go-Gadsden meeting sponsored by the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at Tri-Sales in Midway from 8:00-9:00am. The guest speaker will be City of Tallahassee Mayor, Andrew Gillum. Please let CMS know by May 29 if you plan to attend.
14. **June 30 – Historic Preservation Special Category Grant Application.** CMS is asking the City of Chattahoochee to partner in applying for a special category grant through the State's Bureau of Historic Preservation to get funding to conduct a study to determine the work that would need to be done to restore and refurbish the remnant of the Old Victory Bridge so it could be used as a pedestrian walkway/river overlook.