

Chattahoochee Main Street – Monthly Meeting
June 22, 2015
6:30 pm

Executive Director’s Report

1. May 19 – **BOCC Workshop**. Mr. Chandler attended the County’s workshop where there was further presentation by the GCDC and discussion regarding the Economic Development Incentives Grant program which all the County to offer incentives to businesses desiring to locate 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.
2. May 20 – **Florida Main Street Quarterly Meeting**. Pam Medley, Karen Marsh and I attended the FMS Quarterly Meeting in Ocala. It was a day-long event focused on the updated requirements for quarterly reporting for economic development indicators. Renowned preservationist, Don Rypkema was 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.
3. May 21 – **Historic Preservation Matching Grant Application**. Application was made to the Department of State’s Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historic Resources for a Small Matching Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2016/17. This grant is being pursued to secure 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.
4. May 27 – **CSS Chattahoochee Commemoration**. A brief ceremony was held to honor the men who perished in the tragedy of the CSS Chattahoochee. This year marked the 152nd anniversary of the tragedy which took place on the Apalachicola River near Blountstown on May 27, 1863. Historian and author, Dale Cox, was on hand to provide a historical account of the event. There were participants in attendance who are direct descendants of a couple of the men who died and some were in period dress to commemorate the event. Special thanks go to Mrs. Karen Howell who created and provided the new floral arrangement that has been placed at the marker. Special thanks also to the City for providing much needed clean-up around the site. And many thanks to Karen Marsh and Bernie Howell who replaced the rock bed and the edging stones that form the perimeter around the rock bed.
5. May 28 – **DEO Technical Assistance Grant**. The final deliverable of the Draft Strategic Community Vision Plan was submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity. The final invoice was submitted on June 4 and payment was received on June 19 in the amount of \$10,500.00.

6. May 28 – **BOCC Budget Workshop #1**. Mr. Chandler attended the first of three (3) County budget workshops for the upcoming 2015/16 budget cycle. Funding requests for non-profits / community organizations were discussed at length during this initial session. 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.

The 2nd BOCC Budget Workshop will be held on July 23.

7. May 29 – **Competitive Florida Partnership Program**. By request of Beth Kirkland, GCDC Consultant, and Allara Mills-Gutcher, Gadsden County Planning Director, Mr. Chandler met with them to assist in preparing the Community Development goals and objectives for the Draft Economic Development plan for the County. This is one of several deliverables due to the Department of Economic Opportunity as part of the Competitive Florida Partnership. This draft plan, which is part of an ongoing process, was submitted to DEO on June 15.
8. May 30 – **Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan**. The Gadsden County Planning & Community Development Department submitted a DEO Technical Assistance grant application to continue the Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan into Gadsden County. The intent of this plan is to identify and promote historical resources along the US 90 corridor.

During this past year, Washington and Jackson Counties prepared a Master Plan for Historic Highway 90. Dale Cox served as project manager. DEO has anticipated that Gadsden, Holmes & Walton Counties would apply this year to continue the project through five (5) counties.

9. June 3 – **Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce**. Pam Medley, Karen Marsh, Wayne Chandler, and I attended the most recent Go-Gadsden meeting sponsored by the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce at Tri-Eagle Sales in Midway. The guest speaker was City of Tallahassee Mayor, Andrew Gillum.
10. June 11 – **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Workshop**. Mr. Chandler attended workshop where CRTPA staff presented the priority list of transportation projects to be included in the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2016 – FY 2020 for the Capital Region (Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden & Jefferson Counties).
11. June 16 – **Florida Main Street Consultant Services**. CMS kicked-off a new project with Dawn McMillan of McMillan Design to complete the following work:
 - Create a logo design
 - Branding
 - Collateral materials

- Membership brochure design
- Stationary design
- E-newsletter template
- Display materials design
- Website design & development
- Social media templates

12. **June 16 – DEO Technical Assistance Grant Application.** CMS applied for another Technical Assistance Grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity. This is the same grant category that CMS applied for and received last year to facilitate the community visioning process. This year’s scope has been prepared to be a follow-up to the Vision Plan by developing the Historic Main Street Design Standards.
13. **June 22 – Historic Structures Survey.** The photography for the historic structures survey was completed today. The project received an extension to be completed by the end of July.
14. **June 23 – Economic Restructuring Committee meeting.**
15. **Historic Preservation Special Category Grant Application.** In the past month CMS, in partnership with Dale Cox, has been seeking possible grant funding opportunities to restore the Indian Mound group at the River Landing. Up to this point, the focus has been on exploring the Historic Preservation Special Category Grant through the Bureau of Historic Preservation. This does not seem to be the best option for us to initiate as it is a reimbursable grant that requires us to front the money. We will be looking to other options.
16. **July 23 –** The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners will be holding its 2nd Budget Workshop.
17. **August 17-19 –** Annual Florida Main Street Conference in St. Petersburg.
18. **August 18 – Secretary of State, Florida Main Street Annual Awards.** These awards annually recognize Main Street programs and acknowledge the work they are doing to advance the mission of the Florida Main Street program for revitalization and preservation. These awards are categorized under the four (4) points of the Main Street Approach: Organization, Promotion, Design and Economic Restructuring.

Chattahoochee Main Street has two (2) nominations under consideration:

- 1) In the category of Organization for Outstanding Public/Private Partnership: The City of Chattahoochee in support of the development of the Strategic Community Vision Plan.
- 2) In the category of Economic Restructuring for Outstanding Economic Restructuring Program or Project: Gadsden County Development Council’s Business Retention & Expansion Corporate Visitation Program.

These awards will be announced at the Secretary of State Banquet at the Annual Florida Main Street Conference on Tuesday, August 18.