



Chattahoochee Main Street, Inc

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June 20, 2014

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Florida Main Street Consultants Hold Public Meeting

CHATTAHOOCHEE, June 20, 2014 – At the end of a three-day visit to Chattahoochee, an interdisciplinary resource team of Florida Main Street consultants conducted a public meeting on Wednesday, June 18, at the Chapel at Florida State Hospital to report their findings and recommendations for developing a strategic plan for the Chattahoochee Main Street program.

The four member resource team consisted of Ronni Wood, Coordinator of Florida’s Main Street Program; Sharlene Cannon, who served as the City of Quincy’s first Main Street manager in the late 1980’s and later served as the Main Street manager for the City of Thomasville, Georgia when it was designated as a Great American Main Street City in 1998; Brian Wheeler, a registered landscape architect with the Genesis Group in Jacksonville; and Charlie Johnson with Wood and Partners in Tallahassee.

Prior to the public meeting, the Resource Team spent Monday and Tuesday (June 16-17) holding an intensive series of meetings with public officials and Chattahoochee Main Street committee members. They took time to speak with people they encountered during their stay for the purposes of assisting Chattahoochee’s Main Street program in establishing a sound work plan that will address community needs in each of the four Main Street approach areas: Organization, Promotions, Design and Economic Restructuring.

Nearly 50 citizens were present for the Resource Team’s presentation. Ms. Wood opened with a quote from Margaret Mead to encourage the City’s efforts for economic revitalization by saying “never doubt that a small group of citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The Resource Team’s chief recommendation is that Chattahoochee Main Street’s revitalization efforts should primarily focus on the core area of the downtown business district. They see the city’s strengths as being its people and the deep sense of community along with the unity of a strong city government.

Potential streetscape redesign concepts for Washington Street (US 90) were presented to enhance and increase the parking supply as well as create a downtown atmosphere that is more vibrant and

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inviting. Mr. Wheeler identified that much of the city's current on-street parking is limited due to the prevalence of drop curbs and significant sight distance requirements from side streets and driveways. Reducing the number of driveways and curb cuts would allow for more parking on Washington Street and the side streets that support the downtown roadway network.

The team conveyed that a very important step going forward will be how the city addresses land development regulations within the downtown district so that building types and future land uses fit into the community's vision for Chattahoochee's future.

At the end of the evening, Ms. Wood formally presented certificates to both the City of Chattahoochee and to the Chattahoochee Main Street Board of Directors that formally designate the City of Chattahoochee as a as an official Florida Main Street Community.

Within 30 days of their visit, the Resource Team will be issuing a report documenting their recommendations and strategic plan for guiding Chattahoochee's Main Street program. For more information, please contact Ben Chandler, Executive Director for Chattahoochee Main Street, Inc. at 663-2323 or email ben.chattahoocheemainstreet@gmail.com.

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