



Main Street Board Meeting – March 9, 2020

MINUTES

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Main Street Board was called to order at 9:30 AM by Main Street Director, Emily Davenport.

Attendance Report: Board Members present were Sharon Respass, Madison Trotter, Leanne Griffin, Morgan Davis, Estel Powell, Kelly Barr, and Megan Crawford. City representatives included Main Street Director, Emily Davenport and Main Street Assistant, Jennifer Price along with Valdosta Main Street Director, Ellen Hill.

Approval of Minutes: N/A

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Election of Officers: A ballot was provided to each board member for the 2020 Officer Elections. The votes were tallied and results were as followed:

- Chairman, Kelly Barr
- Vice Chairman, Morgan Davis
- Secretary, Madison Trotter

Main Street Presentation: Valdosta Main Street Director, Ellen Hill presented a PowerPoint that included information on Why are Downtowns Important, What is Main Street, Systematic and Community Driven Approach to Downtown Development, Benefits of becoming a Georgia Main Street Community, and What to Expect. See Attachment. Following the presentation there was discussion on how to get the community and council members involved, ideas for restaurants, use of social medial, and promoting available real estate properties.

Board Retreat: As part of the Main Street accreditation process the City must host at least one annual meeting of the Board to develop the annual work plan. At the February 14th City Council Meeting, an agenda item was approved to hire Georgia Downtowns to provide a Board Retreat to develop a work plan. Following input from the Board and the availability of Georgia Downtowns, the recommendation for the retreat was made for Tuesday, June 9th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Depot with a working lunch. Megan made a motion to approve the recommendation. Estel seconded. No discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

2020 Meeting Dates: The board was presented with the monthly meeting dates for 2020. See Attachment. Estel made a motion to approve the recommendation. Megan seconded. No discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Main Street Update:

Main Street Director: Emily Davenport shared that she has accepted a position with the Georgia Municipal Association and her last day with the City of Hahira will be Friday, March 13th. Jennifer Price will be the Interim Main Street Director starting Monday, March 16th.

Main Street 101 Training: The Georgia Main Street program requires all new managers and board members to complete and pass the Main Street 101 training. The training is online and cost \$75 per person, which the City will pay. If a board member does not pass the test the first time, then it will be their responsibility to pay the fee to take again. Emily has emailed the staff with the Georgia Main Street program to see if the City can pay in advance for each board member; however, has not received a response back. If that is not an option, then each board member could pay for it and provide a receipt to the City for reimbursement, along with a copy of their completion certificate. In the meantime, Emily or Jennifer will email the board members the website link so that they can begin to review the material.

Bylaws, Mission & Vision, District Boundaries: As part of a Main Street Board, there are certain items that will need to be adopted, which include bylaws, mission & vision statements, and district boundaries. Bylaws have been drafted, however, before they can be sent to the City Attorney for review and City Council for approval, staff would like the input of the Main Street Board, plus a map of the district boundaries must be included. Mission & Vision statements can be included in the bylaws or they can be separate. Staff will send out more information by email following the meeting to review and provide input at the April Board Meeting.

Old Fire Station Property (map/parcel 0046C 179): City staff was asked by the Mayor and City Manager to request from the Main Street Board options on what this property could be used for now that the old fire station has been demolished. Initial ideas provided by the board included a public dog park or sell the property so that someone else could develop it, however, staff encouraged them to continue thinking of options and bring them to the April Board Meeting.

Other: The board members brought up two additional items, which included:

- Cardboard Boxes: With the recent change of the City sanitation provider, the new company is no longer picking up cardboard boxes so businesses are now required to take them to the City Recycle Center on either Wednesday or Saturday. Due to the volume of boxes that several merchants receive this has become an issue. Valdosta Main Street partners with LARK so that may be an option.
- Community Involvement: The idea was shared to have a Meet your Mayor & Council Member event.

Main Street staff will share both comments with the Mayor and City Manager and follow back up at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2020 at 9:30 AM at the Hahira Courthouse (301 W Main Street)

Adjourn: Chairman Barr requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 AM. Madison made a motion to adjourn. Morgan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Submitted by,
Madison Trotter