

The DDA held its regular meeting on Friday, March 11, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Commission Room of Toccoa City Hall. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Mrs. Crosby gave the invocation.

The following were in attendance: Chairman Marilyn Hall, Vice-Chairman Letha Philips, Mr. Joe Sewell, Mr. Clint Sanders, Mr. Clay Fisher, Mrs. Connie Tabor, Mr. Christian Hamilton, and Mrs. Sharon Crosby. Chamber President Julie Paysen, Intern Mr. Brian Ulbricht, Mr. Jeremy Spradlin, and Mr. Bob Troup were also in attendance. Mrs. Terri Goethe, Mr. Bryan Westmoreland, TCC Liaison Terry Carter, and SCDA President Brittany Ivey were absent.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Sewell, the March 11, 2022, Agenda was unanimously approved. Upon a motion made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Sanders, the February 11, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports

- a. **Main Street Events Update.** Mrs. Crosby provided the report. She mentioned the “Cruzin’ Down Doyle” event, starting at 4 pm - 8 pm on March 18, 2022, with future “Cruzin’ Down Doyle” events occurring on Saturdays in May between 3 pm – 7 pm. She also discussed Toast of Toccoa, occurring on April 30, 2022, and Toccoa Train Day, occurring on June 7, 2022. She added that the Downtown Meet-n-Greet will take place on March 28, 2022 at 6pm at the Simmons-Bond Inn.
- b. **Ritz Theatre Events Update.** Mr. Hamilton provided the report. He mentioned an increase in theatre rentals, the Bobby Horton performance scheduled for June 6, 2022, and the Ida Cox Music Series coming up in June.
- c. **February 2022 Financial Report.** Mr. Hamilton provided the report.
- d. **145 N. Alexander Street Façade Grant Update.** Mr. Hamilton explained that work had begun on the façade grant project approved at the February 11, 2022, DDA meeting for property located at 145 North Alexander Street. He stated that the work is anticipated to be completed in the coming weeks and it is likely that reimbursement will be requested at the April 8, 2022, regular DDA meeting.

I. Unfinished Business

- a) N/A

II. New Business

- a) **Façade Grant Application Funding Request. First United Methodist Church for Property located at 226 East Savannah Street.** Mr. Hamilton asked DDA directors to please review the information found in their meeting packet. He stated that on February 14, 2022, Mr. Bob Troup, on behalf of the First United Methodist Church Board of Trustees, had submitted a grant application for property located at 226 East Savannah Street, which is the current location of the historic home owned by First United Methodist Church. Mr. Hamilton explained that, according to the façade grant request, the project will include exterior window frame replacement, exterior painting, and gutter replacement in the front façade facing East Tugalo Street and in the rear façade facing East Savannah Street. Mr. Hamilton explained that since the work being completed would be classified as general maintenance, no Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) would be required. Mr. Hamilton added that the estimated cost to complete the project is between \$7,000 and \$10,000 and that the church is asking for reimbursement of \$4,000 up to \$10,000 in funding from the program, depending upon submitted invoices, canceled checks, and receipts, for these qualifying facades. He added that the total reimbursed amount would depend upon the allowable submitted final documentation project. Mr. Fisher chose to recuse himself from both the vote and discussion due to his having served on the Board of Trustees with First United Methodist Church when the historic home was purchased. Mr. Troup told DDA Directors that a new roof had been installed and that the grant will assist in the supply of building materials for the completion of the project. Upon a motion made by Mr. Sewell and seconded by Mr. Sanders, the DDA voted to approve the Façade Grant Application Funding

Request in the amount of up to \$10,000 or 50% of project costs, which is lesser, depending upon available funding and allowable expenses. Chairman Hall, Vice-Chairman Phillips, Mr. Sewell, and Mr. Sanders all voted in favor. Mr. Fisher abstained.

III. Other Business

1. **Chamber Report.** Mrs. Paysen provided her report. She stated that on March 10, 2022, the 5th-grade academy took a field trip around Downtown Toccoa. She also mentioned upcoming events including *The Mulligan Movie* premiere between April 18th – 23rd at the Ritz, the Annual Awards Ceremony on April 26th or 28th, a golf tournament to be held on May 11th, and the 75th Chamber Celebration held at the Currahee Club on May 17th.
2. **SCDA Report.** No report was given.

There being no further business, upon a motion made by Mr. Sanders by and seconded by Mrs. Sewell, the regular meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Christian Hamilton
Main Street Manager

Marilyn Hall
Chairman

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