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**Main Street Board Meeting – October 9, 2023 M I N U T E S**

**Call to Order**: The regular meeting was called to order by Josh Owen at 9:36AM

**Attendance Report:** Board members present were Cindy Becton, Josh Owen, Kelly Barr, Elise Pierce, Christie Bassett, Kayla Walker, Miriam Valcin. City representatives include Main Street Director Jennifer Price, Main Street Assistant, Jamie Parr, DDA Chairman, Ted Raker, Councilman Davis and City Manager, Jonathan Sumner.

Not present: Taylor Williams and Drew Duren

Review/Correction of Minutes - Minutes were approved – Motion made by Cindy Becton, 2nd by Christie Bassett- motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

* Honeybee Festival Review with Businesses – Josh stated that as a downtown business and a vendor there were some learning curves including logistics, visibility, signage, etc. He also mentioned being able to communicate what each event throughout the week is for and how it benefits the community, who all is involved, etc. The only feedback he had heard regarding the festival was in regards too the barricades going out earlier on Thursday and the parking issue it caused for businesses. Kayla Walker also noted that the bank was much slower than usual because of it. Elise Pierce noted that on the retail side of things, Saturday was not a good as it had been in the past and notated the economy and the great weather that kept people outside and not in shops.
* City Manager, Jonathan Sumner noted that the barricades going out were per the request of the committee and carried out by the Public Works Department.
* Streetlamps – Railroad to Newsome are all updated and match. That includes the North and South side of the street. This was a goal from our strategic planning process conducted in the Fall of 2022.
* Downtown Business Update - A Vapor shop has opened by the interstate next to Napa Auto Parts in the former Slice Pizzeria building.

**Old Business:**

* Switch to Six Training – Necessary for all board members to complete. This is part of a new reporting system to maintain program accreditation.
* Main Street 101- Reminder for all current board members to get this done.

Volunteer Opportunities- Jennifer reminded the board of the volunteer opportunities available throughout the year. The Main Street Board is a working board and therefore we need everyone’s participation to make events successful. We are moving into Fall events season and we will need volunteers for a number of events.

Promoting Main Street Events – Jennifer reminded the board to promote the Main Street events that are posted on social media. While we have over 14K followers, all members sharing the events means that they reach more people. Also, remember to share the initiatives by other board members.

***Updates of Events-***

Main Street Market – once a month thru October; beginning in January.

September 30th

October 28th  Paint a Pumpkin and Trunk or Treat with Jeeps. We are partnering with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber on “little entrepreneurs” coming out.

Scarecrow Decorating Contest – October 13th – November 25th

October 13th – 3rd Annual Witches Night Out - we are hoping to add some fun activities to this year’s event as it continues to grow. Street performers, stilt walkers, fire twirlers, etc.

November 5th – Annual Holiday Open House

November 11th – Veterans Day Parade

November 25th – Small Business Saturday

December 4th – 31st – Parade of Trees

December 7th Annual Tree Lighting

December 8th – Mayor’s Motorcade

December 9th – Merry Main Street Festival and Parade

Crafts With Santa

December 4th- 31st – Annual Parade of Trees

Additional: DDA Chairman Ted Raker and Councilman Davis provided the MSB with an update on the Altman/Barrett project located on Main Street. The elevator was soon to be installed and the contractors will begin updating the sidewalks in front of the building as a private expense. We are incredibly proud and excited to see this project happening.

City Manager, Jonathan Sumner, also updated the MSB on an update regarding the formation of a non -profit and invited all member of the Main Street Board to the next DDA meeting scheduled for October 17th at 2PM at the Depot.

**Next Meeting: November 13, 2023  at 9:30 am at the Depot-**

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 by Josh Owen

Prepared By:  Jennifer Price