

Georgetown Business Association- Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Minutes, March 6, 2018  
Tidelands Health Community Center

Board Members Present:

Andrea Johnson  
Kathryn Kossove  
Pam Toemmes  
Lisa Haas  
Andy Friedman  
Tamela Walter  
Wanda Rogers  
Erin Angner  
Hank Jones  
Happy Wilcox

Board Members Absent

Michele Overton  
Ginger Gray  
Wendy Belser

Others in Attendance:

Mayor Brendon Barber (Mayor, City of Georgetown)  
Gloria Tinubu (Director of Economic Development and MS Manager, City of Georgetown)  
Jennifer Norman (Georgetown Co. Chamber of Commerce)

**Action of the Board**

- Meeting was called to order by Andy Friedman.
- Minutes from 2/6/2018 were approved

**Financial Reports**

- The GBA Treasurer's Report prepared by Happy Wilcox was presented by Andy Friedman. \$750 has been collected from 2018 membership fees. Expenses for advertising, web hosting, and insurance were noted, leaving a balance of \$6,245.08.
- Andy also presented Ginger Gray's MIP/ Events Account information. Deposits included a City ATAX reimbursement of \$5509.29 and an advance from the County ATAX grant funds of \$14,000. All of the performers for the May – September Music in the Park events have received deposits and those expenses were noted along with other MIP related expenses, leaving a balance of \$13,289.50.
- Lisa Haas reported that the DMO fund balance is \$28,563.17. Advertising expenses approved at the Feb. meeting have been paid. Lisa asked for the Board's input and approval to advertise in the Stay SC Magazine which is distributed to Welcome Centers and Chamber of Commerce Centers throughout the state. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and the Board voted to approve the quarterly fee of \$1,150 for the Stay SC Mag. In April, Lisa will present additional advertising opportunities for Board approval.

**Committee Reports**

**Design Committee:**

Erin Angner shared that the Design Committee is moving forward with purchasing the banners for display on the bridges entering the City. They will receive samples of the banners and the hardware by the end of April. Committee members will be meeting with the City and presenting an itemized budget for the items/tasks they hope to complete in 2018. The Design Committee requested a donation of \$1,500 from the GBA to help offset the cost of plants and soil for the planters planned for Front St. The Committee is presently evaluating the condition of the planters and where they should be placed. They plan to minimize the number of planters and to get rid of broken ones. They plan to check with business owners to see who is willing to maintain the planters. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide the one-time amount of \$1,500.

#### **Economic Development Committee:**

Hank Jones is the new chairman of the Economic Development Committee. Harris Chewning has resigned from being a Co-Chair with Hank due to his work schedule. The Economic Committee plans to review the Clemson study, the Bridge2Bridge Charrette, that was prepared for the City in 2008 and use that as a guide for their committee.

#### **Music in the Park Committee:**

Sponsorship letters have been mailed to previous sponsors. Presently, the events account does have a healthy balance, however, it is not enough to cover staging, additional payments to performers, the cost of Police presence, and other event related expenses. We need MIP sponsors.

#### **Old Business**

- **Main Street Partnership** – Andy reported that a meeting was held with Gloria Tinubu and members of the GBA’s Executive Board. It was determined that the GBA is in no position to lead the Main Street program since we are a member-based organization, relying solely on volunteers. Dr. Tinubu will continue as Main Street Manager for the City of Georgetown and the City will continue to be responsible for promoting the Main Street Program. The GBA will solicit members to serve on Main Street Committees.

#### **New Business**

- Andy shared that Peg Howell with Stop Off-shore Drilling in the Atlantic (SODA) is asking for our support in their efforts to oppose drilling for oil along our coast. Mayor Barber stated that the City is supporting those efforts. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to send an official letter from the GBA to the SODA group in support of their efforts. Andy and Pam will write the letter.
- Andy also shared that The SC Coastal Council Conservation League is also asking for our support in banning the use of plastic bags. Mayor Barber shared that while the City is dedicated to being environmentally friendly, this is not a subject that City Council has addressed. Since the GBA is not certain of the economic impact on our business owners. After much discussion, it was decided that the GBA will look at ways to promote the use of other materials to replace the use of plastic bags.
- Two new GBA supported events were suggested for winter of 2019. A January Restaurant Week event and a February Chocolate and Wine event were proposed in order to promote the downtown businesses during the off season. Further discussion will take place at a future GBA meeting.

### **Events**

- Lisa Hass shared that The Clover Crawl event is being promoted on Facebook and the GBA website. 7 restaurants have signed up to take part in the March 17 event.
- Lisa also shared that the GBA is partnering with the Cultural Council and the Kaminski House Museum for the March 31 Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the Kaminski House Museum. The GBA is being asked to provide candy for the eggs. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the GBA to spend \$100 on the candy.

### **General GBA Meetings**

- March 20 – The Sly Fox
- April 17 – The CCCA Clubhouse – 1010 Horry Street
- May 15 – The Rover
- Augustus & Carolina and Aunny's will host at dates to be determined

### **Other**

- Mayor Barber shared that he realizes change is sometimes difficult but he has confidence that Carey Smith, Interim Administrator for the City of Georgetown, can provide the leadership that the City needs. Mayor Barber is reaching out to Joe Riley to be a "Friend of Georgetown" in order to take advantage of his expertise. The Mayor said the City is supporting a study by Pamela Martin from Coastal Carolina U in conjunction with other universities in their study of rising sea levels. He also shared the City was holding a meeting on March 8 to hear about the Vista Project. The City is also looking at creating a cleaner City, especially the appearance coming into the City. Mayor Barber went on to say he supports the efforts of the GBA in promoting Georgetown. Andy thanked the Mayor for his attendance at the meeting, his comments and his continued support for the GBA.
- Andy share the information about the Georgetown Unity Alliance's planned march from Winyah Auditorium to Howard Auditorium on March 24 at 12:00pm. He encouraged Board members to attend.

Meeting was Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Pam Toemmes