

Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of July 5th, 2017

Present

Jim Abicht
Rick Bodson
Tom Elder

Sheila Gwaltney
Trey Gwaltney
Mark Hall

Peter Stephenson
Judy Winslow

Admin

Current funds balance is \$13,554.85. The \$1,279 façade grant to Maggie Casey's was paid on June 6th. There are no outstanding commitment of funds.

A motion to subsidize from undesignated funds the \$420 cost for the final repairs of painted pig Magnolia was adopted.

New initiatives

A proposal to place painted pianos in public places was discussed. Based on a world-wide creative initiative described at <http://www.streetpianos.com/>, the proposal is in its early definition stages but the offer of a donated piano painted by a local artist has been made. The task team will evaluate aspects of the initiative such as location, damage and theft deterrence and maintenance and report out details at a future Team meeting.

As part of the economic vitality task team's effort, initial brainstorming has identified initiatives to add parking capacity, e.g., transformation of Joyner field; the feasibility of metered parking to pay for development and maintenance of parking; exploring ways to encourage transformation of residential buildings in the 300 block to mixed use (there were many such retail locations on the 300 block pre-2008 recession). The new owners of Fleur de Fou have agreed to participate in a lessons-learned case study to share their experience in transforming a 300 block house to a ground-floor florist / second-floor residential rental.

Information shared today was a checkpoint on progress; the team will continue to explore and validate initiatives.

Organization updates / announcements

County: An Assistant Director of Economic Development has been hired. Chris Morello brings 25 years of experience from Newport News ED to the position.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 2nd, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.