

Smithfield 2020 Notes from project team meeting of June 4th, 2014

Present

Jim Abicht	Lee Duncan	Peter Stephenson
Priscilla Barbour	Trey Gwaltney	Judy Winslow
Rick Bodson	Randy Pack	
Andy Cripps	Russell Parrish	

Admin

Current funds balance of \$24,330 reflects banner award payments of \$500 total for second and third place; the first place winner declined the \$500 prize and requested the funds be put to the façade grant program. Outstanding fund commitments include \$5,200 from undesignated funds for a Riverview Campus master plan, \$7,500 of the budgeted \$8,000 from SHDBA funds for the banner project and a \$1,000 façade improvement grant to Victoria's Rose.

Project and initiative updates

A quarterly checkpoint meeting of the **Riverview Campus** Working Group confirmed that credible cross-organization project are in place; example: the Library and PDCCC collaboration on a PC literacy curriculum. Rick briefed the Town Council Public Buildings & Welfare Committee on May 20th and received support to pursue with Town staff modest surfacing and landscaping improvements to the lot at the northeast corner of Washington and James currently used for overflow parking; the VFW will be volunteering labor for the project. The progress to date notwithstanding, with a low probability of funding from any source for further significant campus improvements, a motion to de-commit the \$5,200 for a master plan was discussed and passed with unanimous consent.

Fifty-seven entries for the **street banner project** from 23 artists were juried and 11 selected and announced on May 16th. The production of 2'x4' banners is progressing; installation of the banners will be scheduled as soon as production is complete and a mapping of which banners adorn what light poles is being finalized. The project is tracking to budget.

Porcine parade maintenance was discussed in light of needed repairs to Magnolia (outside the Museum) and Steamboat Swilly (outside Smithfield Foods finance building). Both will need a reapplication of clear coating and Swilly will first need repainting on a small area. By general consensus, it was agreed the 2020 will pay for the repairs; negotiations with Knox Automotive for clear-coating are to be finalized by mid-month and an Action without Meeting (email vote) will be sent to the team to authorize payment from undesignated funds.

A motion to release the **façade improvement matching grant payment** of \$1,000 to the owner of Victoria's Rose upon confirmation of project completion and presentation of substantiating invoices was approved by unanimous consent.

New initiatives / discussion items

A **Tourism District designation** proposal was introduced by Judy. Similar to the Arts & Culture District overlay previously championed by 2020, the State program may provide tax advantages to Historic District businesses. Judy will present a full briefing on the program at the July meeting.

The contingency plans for the **Isle of Wight County Museum** have coalesced with the agreement for the County to fund the building and the Town to fund operations agreed to by both. Also, the Town Council has authorized the Town Manager to hire the staff to operate the Museum. Lee noted that the Isle of Wight County Historical Society is launching an online fundraising campaign today (and later in the day, reported that \$16,000 has already been pledged to close \$26,000 operating funds gap).

The unfortunate loss of Aaron Hill, Director of the **Smithfield High School Band** was discussed at length in light of the impact to the cultural and economic vitality of Smithfield. Jim, as president of the Isle of Wight Arts League, plans to address the School Board at its June 11th meeting; attendance by 2020 team members in a show of solidarity is encouraged. Jim, via Smithfield Music, will be posing an ad in the Smithfield Times reflecting on the value of arts education and thanking Aaron for his leadership and inspiration of Smithfield students.

A developing initiative by Brad Face, member of the Historic Smithfield and WCP Foundation boards, to engage several State agencies in a **Historic District visioning / master plan evaluation** prompted the recommendation that Brad be invited to brief 2020 on the vision. The meeting is confirmed for June 18th, 8:30 AM, Arts Center.

Organization updates / announcements

Chamber: The Chamber's recognition luncheon today will recognize C. Larry Pope as Citizen of the Year; a business of the year and teacher of the year will also be announced.

The Chamber has scheduled a July 9th, 8:30 to 10:00 AM, workshop on leveraging social media for business promotion. Additional details will be sent to the team.

Tourism: Olden Days preparations are tracking to plan; a 2020 focus on Smithfield e-blast will remind Main Street merchants of street closures.

Next monthly team meeting: Wednesday, July 2nd, 8:45 AM, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

Ad hoc meeting (details above): Wednesday, June 18th, 8:45 AM, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.