

## Smithfield 2020 Notes from Team meeting of July 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:45 am, Arts Center @ 319 classroom.

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*These meeting notes submitted by Rick Bodson.*