

Memorandum

Date: April 9, 2009
To: Members of the Main Street Monroe/Downtown Development Authority
From: Andrea Jones, Main Street Manager
Re: April Main Street Manager Report

The following is an update on the Design Committee projects approved at the August MSM/DDA meeting: All items have been ordered and received except the planters which will be delivered the last week in April or first week in May. (Planters will be planted by volunteers on May 23rd). More pictures will be hung in the office once the picture rail is securely attached on the west wall.

I was able to get the name of the company that the original hanging basket chains were purchased from. They offered to replace the chains at no cost with the design of our choice. We received some of the chains and the rest were back ordered. We will be hanging the remainder of the baskets with the remaining chains we have from last year. The baskets are planted and hung at the greenhouse and I receive periodic updates with pictures of how they are growing.

The City of Monroe applied to MSHDA for a Rental Rehabilitation program that downtown property owners can take advantage of for creation or renovation of downtown apartments. This program has a low-moderate income regulation. We should be notified in approximately a month as to whether the application was approved.

I spoke at the Monroe County Economic Development Summit and received great feedback on the information that I provided.

I did not receive any Façade Grant applications. I will accept applications as people turn them in throughout the year and the committee can review them for funding.

The benches have been repaired and painted and put back out at their previous locations. One or two benches were not able to be repaired.

I attended the Michigan Downtown Association Conference in Chelsea, Michigan. It was very informative and I brought back marketing ideas for the Promotion Committee to review. I also learned more information about the Michigan Film Tax Incentives and how the local communities can get involved.

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I initiated communication with City Staff regarding the Masonic Temple building and options for parking. Due to the limited space on the parcel, parking will be an issue no matter who purchases the building. I have passed on several remedies to the realtor as to the process for resolving parking issues on that parcel.

I presented our budget to City Council. There were a few questions from Council members and none from the public.

I attended the March Traffic Committee meeting and will be taking several issues to the Economic Restructuring Committee for their recommendation. Parking recommendations will be asked of the Board at the May meeting.

I attended a "Capitalizing on Chaos" webinar with information about attracting and retaining customers during the current economic state. Many new methods being presented include social-networking.

I have communicated with both the City Blight Inspector and Sergeant McCormick at the police department about bike ordinance regulations for duration and location of parking. I have been told that there is nothing in the Blight Ordinance about bikes. Sergeant McCormick forwarded text about the location of parking bikes which is very generic and subject to interpretation, but has not found anything about duration of parking. It was suggested that a new ordinance could be put together to address those concerns if desired.

I will not be attending either April City Council meeting due to the focus on resolving budget issues. I will be presenting Wayfinding information and the Downtown Monroe Handbook at the coming City Council meetings.

I am continuing to help resolve a dumpster issue in the new alleyscape. It appears that there are extra dumpsters in the alley and one was not being emptied. I am working with Toby Worrell, Blight Inspector to determine what solutions can help prevent this in the future as it has taken a lot of time to investigate the issue.

I have laid out where the 10 new planters will be placed. The Design Committee reviewed my map and had no comments.

The Downtown Monroe Facebook Page is up and running and our fans are growing.

Thank you.