**DDA Executive Director’s Report**

**June-July 2020**

**Sidewalk Ordinance**- the Commission approved the temporary sidewalk ordinance to add additional tables on sidewalks as well as closing side streets. The Sherriff, however, would not issue the necessary permits for street closures. Jack and I met with Patrick Clayton and we are still working out details to satisfy him. Restaurants have added tables on the sidewalks.

**Reserved Parking**- In the windshield survey we distributed with the CVB, 65% of participants responded they will continue with curbside pick-up. We are working with traffic and Engineering to further this initiative.

**James Brown Vinyl Project**-will be completed by mid-August with an unveiling at the History Museum pending the pandemic. There are 12 albums that are 5 feet in diameter in the downtown area and along James Brown Blvd. There is a website for the tour-“Get on the Good Foot” along with a brochure. At each location there will be a 2 minute podcast for visitors to listen to as well as a song from the album.

We met with the Mayor and Commissioner Marion Williams last week and they will look for funding to for us to continue with other JB initiatives.

**Opportunity Zones Projects**- we are working with Georgia Power to submit downtown projects for the next allocation for Opportunity Zone credits. To date, we have submitted 4 projects.

**The Faces of Downtown PSA**-has been a tremendous success with one 60 second spot and four 30 second spots. WJBF and Comcast are airing them thru the summer. We are in the process of filming two additional 30 second spots with 8 new businesses. They are being highlighted on social media platforms as well.

**5th Street Bridge**-we are working with the Chamber and CVB and a consultant from Columbia on amenities for the new pedestrian bridge. The consultant was in town last week.

**SharedSpace**-Jack and I met with Danny Levison to begin the conversation of the DDA and other partners using the space for incubators and start-up businesses with the DDA possibly owning the building. Kirby is working on several options for the board to discuss.

**Website**-we had a workshop with Weir Stewart and we will get the first peak at our new site this week.

**Proposed Hotel Upper Broad-** we are working with Patel to navigate the Planning and Zoning process. They are moving ahead with design.

**GMA Webinars**- we have been asked to participate in 2 statewide webinars highlighting the work we did with the sidewalk ordinance and our Faces of Downtown PSA. The statewide DDA conference in September has asked us to do a webinar on the PSA as well.

**Georgia Trend Magazine**-we will be featured in the August edition.

**1736 Magazine**-we will be heavily featured in the fall edition.

**Georgia Cities Loan Application**-had a conference call with Heard Robertson last week and will have an application for the board to approve for 401 Greene Street.

**GP Facade Grants**-we have received 2 additional applications for board approval.

**Destination Marketing Campaign-**the CVB is launching a new campaign “Come Visit Us”. It is one of the best campaigns I have seen coming out of Augusta. We have a conference call Friday to discuss a mirror piece for economic development for recruiting businesses to downtown Augusta.

**Columbia County Homebuilder**-we zoomed for the second time last week and are working on possible sites for downtown housing.

**PPP Loan-** James Heffner and Roxanne are working on one for the DDA.

**Paine College**-met with Dr. Jones last week to look at possible partnerships between the college and DDA.

**Next Site Customer Analysis Reports**-have a conference call with Chuck on Thursday to discuss the 3rd report since COVID 19 and will send an updated analysis to board members via email.

**Arches**-will have an updated report form Cranston this week and will forward via email.