

McDonough Matters



www.mcdonoughga.org

Volume Four—Issue Six

When Information Matters

June, 2011



COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

—Focusing on the Future—

A preview of the upcoming Community Visioning Workshop was presented by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Land Use Division Chief Dan Reuter and Land Use Planner Allison Duncan during a special called City Council meeting on Thursday, June 9th.

Those present gained insight into the ideas and direction to be provided by the ARC team as the workshop



ARC Land Use Planner Allison Duncan (Left) and Land Use Division Chief Dan Reuter discuss the upcoming Visioning Workshop with Council and City Manager.

DAY ONE: 6-13-11



ARC's Laura Keyes led the Monday (1:00 p.m.) discussion on the large older population in and around McDonough.

ry County Chamber, stakeholders and others to facilitate a gathering of citizens

who might wish to have a voice in the vision for the central downtown business district of McDonough.



The Monday afternoon roundtable discussion consisted of 9 local citizens with knowledge of senior needs.



Continued on Page 2

ICMA

Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICMA RECOGNIZES MEMBERS WITH LONGEVITY AWARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Billy P. Beckett, City Administrator of McDonough, GA, recently received a 35 year service award from ICMA, the premier local government leadership and management organization. Mr. Beckett's achievement will be celebrated at a special ceremony on Wednesday, September 21st, as part of the 97th ICMA Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public services and professional management at the local level. Awards are based on the number of years of full-time employment in local government. Billy Beckett is qualified by 35 years of professional local government experience. Prior to his appointment in 2009 as City Administrator of McDonough, he served in several city or county manager positions and previously as City Manager of Milton, GA.

About ICMA

ICMA advances professional local government worldwide. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advancing professional management of local government. ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, provides member support; publications, data, and information; peer and results oriented assistance; and training and professional development to city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's 9,000 members affect 185 million individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas.

Congratulations, Mr. "B"!!



Billy Beckett
City Administrator

Continued from page 1

As the future of this particular business district is fashioned and molded by those who are connected and care, the initial meeting with ARC and a hand-full of invited guests, focused on the impact of senior citizens. McDonough and the surrounding area have the largest senior population in Henry County. This leads one to speculate as to the needs, within walking distance, of this ever increasing segment of the city's residents.



Community Development Director Kathleen Field welcomed those gathered for the evening session .

an evening of introductions and participatory activities. This was just one of many steps to be initiated by ARC to glean knowledge from the input of those participating.

The evening's activities provided the ARC with much information and a great start to this



(L-R) Mike Warren, Diane Moore, Sally and Judge Jim Chafin, and City Clerk Janis Price are assisted by ARC Planner Allison Duncan.

Visioning process.

DAY TWO: 6-14-11

The Tuesday sessions were full of energy, concepts and discussions. This was expected as session topics centered on traffic and parking—topics of great exasperation for drivers. Ideas were put forth and dia-

At 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, approximately 40-50 citizens and stakeholders gathered at the Hazlehurst House for



Atlanta Regional Commission's Beth Hawes spoke on behalf of those attending from ARC.



Two Council members, Gail Notti (Standing, Left) and Sandra Vincent (Seated Front, Left) joined in the discussion of ideas at this table.



Public Works Director Lee Hearn (Right) talks with Elizabeth Turner who attended every Workshop meeting.

logues ensued on this problematic topic. Not only was it a topic in this meeting, but the subject of ongoing conversations and complaints on the streets, in the shops, in the restaurants, etc., and still, the volume of traffic on the Square continues to plague McDonough without a remedy having been



(L-R) Andy Welch, Annette O'Banion, Linda Schenk and Leslie Balog work on one problem area while Amy Goodman looks on.

found despite any past efforts to formulate a workable solution.

The attendees divided into groups and were presented different problem locations to consider and apply their individual thoughts and ideas to in a concerted effort to find answers for those particular problems and then record those ideas on a large piece of tracing paper laid across the large map at each workstation.

DAY THREE: 6-15-11



Bruce Green leads the group with many informative ideas and directives.



Director Field responds to a question from a local business owner.



ARC's Amy Goodman (Standing, Right) leads a portion of the traffic discussion.

Wednesday morning's session on Culture, Art and Tourism was lead by Bruce Green, Tourism Product Development Director with the Georgia Department of

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(L-R) McDonough Hospitality and Tourism Concegnier Jennifer Price; The Seasons Bistro owner Lynn Loggins; and Scarlett's Retreat owner Annette O'Banion added to the discussion with several pertinent comments and questions.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Economic Development. Many in attendance were connected to the arts locally.

Mr. Green suggested that the individual groups get together and form



one large cohesive group that begins to work in a unified manner to achieve their ultimate goals. They must start with one common goal and get their "ask" together—a term used by Green denoting having your ducks in a row before reaching out for help, whether monetary or some other type of help.



Main Street Director Linda Schenk greets longtime associate, Bruce Green.

Mr. Green provided avenues and answers for those in attendance expressing concerns and needing a better understanding of the steps necessary in taking their particular art venue to the next level.

One important factor that he could not stress strongly enough was that of unity in effort. One going alone does not make a major impact. That one, taking a hundred others with him/her, suddenly becomes an audience. Truly an eye-opening session for everyone that was present.



At the end of the each day's sessions, it's time to reflect.

those who found time and deemed this visioning workshop important enough to give it an audience.

As presentations ended, renderings on display inside were surveyed up close followed by refreshments served on the Hazlehurst Hurst veranda. One could not help reviewing the week's meetings and progress made. It was obvious what those in attendance were most concerned about. It was also obvious that the city had put forth every possible effort to allow citizen input and to create a stage on which ideas could be shared. With these realizations in mind, this Community Visioning Workshop came to an end.

The conclusions and suggestions from the past four days of meetings, sharing of ideas and discussions are reflected on page 4.



(L-R) ARC's Andrew Smith, Amy Goodman and Kathleen Field, Community Development Director, survey the traffic that has been the topic of so much discussion in McDonough for so long.

Where Do We GROW From HERE??

Between 35-

40 individuals made their way to the Hazlehurst House on Thursday evening, June 16th, to hear, in person, the conclusions arrived at and presented by the ARC team that worked so diligently throughout this process on behalf of the City of McDonough.

Community Development Director Kathleen Field opened the session on the final night as she did for the opening night on Monday evening. She welcomed those in attendance and quickly turned the meeting over to ARC's team.



Director Field welcomes those in the audience to the final meeting.

ARC Team



Beth Hawes serves as ARC lead coordinator for the series.



Allison Duncan addresses all assembled for the last meeting.



Andrew Smith explains a portion of the PowerPoint presentation.



Amy Goodman follows Smith and continues the discussion on the week's findings.

Continued on page 4

A SAMPLING OF NEW LOOKS FOR OLD BUILDINGS



One possible makeover for the buildings across from the Judicial Building on John Frank Ward Blvd.

An idea for a façade renovation for the former Truman's Restaurant on Jonesboro Street.

A possible new and dazzling look for an old theater, Clay Plaza, on the McDonough Square.



Renderings by Lew Oliver | Lew Oliver, Inc. Whole Town Solutions

DAY FOUR: 6-16-11

Conclusions

As the four days flew by and the final session began, one has to reflect and appreciate the hard work and tremendous efforts that each member of the workshop team contributed as well as express a special 'thanks' to

ARC's PowerPoint revealed the following:



Attendees gather on the veranda to enjoy lemonade and cookies.

Judge Jim Chafin (Right) and John Hanger discuss ideas on downtown.

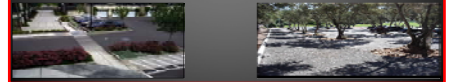


Parking – Is there a shortage?



Parking:

- Change meters from 2 hours to 3 or 4 hours
- Signage important so visitors know where parking is
 - Kiosk in lots
- Enhance walk from parking deck
- Landscape/beautification in all lots
- If no meters
 - Court employers must be responsible for their employees
 - Merchants responsible for their employees
 - Explore an employee parking lot



Street Network and Design

Issue #1:

Intersections in Square not safe for pedestrians!

Possible solutions include:

- Textured crosswalks with high visibility paint
- Crosswalk signage
- Adjust signal timing (such as Lead Pedestrian Indicator) and install Ped Countdown Timers
- Restrict turns on red



Street Network and Design

Issue #5

- **McDonough Bypass:** When implemented, very important to not over commercialize bypass to keep life in the Square.
- Recommendations to protect the corridor's investment in mobility, and to direct development towards downtown McDonough and the LCI area:
 - Adopt and Access Management Policy and include access management controls (such as medians, limited curb cuts, etc) into design of bypass
 - Conduct zoning code audit and build-out analysis of the corridor, and make changes to zoning as needed

Street Network and Design

Issue #2

Current **sidewalks in Square** are not inviting, not wide enough to accommodate additional uses.

Recommendations:

- Widen sidewalks to provide room for café seating, landscaping and street furniture.
- Consider removing or relocating the angled parking to curb side
 - Provides buffer between sidewalk and roadway
 - Decreases need to cross roadway
 - If angled parking stays, consider back-in to improve safety of pulling out into traffic.

Street Network and Design

Implementation Recommendations:

- Apply for LCI transportation funds in July 2011
- City to hire consultant to complete a detailed connectivity and streetscape plan (2011)
- Work with GDOT District 3 to improve intersection safety in Square
- Meet with GDOT project manager of 1-Way Pair project to ensure that it is accommodating bikes/pedestrians
- Adopt Complete Streets policy and Streetscape Design Guidelines to be implemented through future developments and transportation projects
- Adopt Access Management policy

Signage

- Heard throughout the week, City needs a uniform sign ordinance specific to the Square
- Consistent Branding needed – parking signs, gateway signs near square, kiosks, etc.
 - **Consultant will be hired to write an overlay zone for the Square, which will include a signage section specific to the Square**

Street Network and Design



Parking

METERS or NO METERS

- Inconvenient/rude
- Need longer than 2 hours
- Court Parking
- Business Employees



Street Network and Design

Issue #3

Improve **bicycle safety and access** throughout the City, in particular connecting McDonough's three parks. Recommendations:

- Create separated bike lanes or "side paths" along the 8 approaches to the Square (i.e. Jonesboro, Hampton, Griffin, Macon, Keys Ferry, J.F. Ward, Lawrenceville and Atlanta).
- Ensure bike facilities are included the 1-Way Pair, Brown St Extension, McDonough Bypass projects.
- Adopt a Complete Streets policy to ensure bike facilities are included in future projects.
- Accommodate bicycles in the Square with bike lanes (if possible), or sharrows, and the provision of bike racks.



John and Jean Hanger look at renderings.

"ARC told us that 60 participants would be a good response from the community. I counted approximately 100 participants and many of them came to more than one meeting. We were thrilled with the response."

Community Development Director Kathleen Field

"The City's vision will be developed with input from the citizens and by policy direction from the Mayor and City Council. The Visioning Exercise identified problems and opportunities that will be addressed by a series of consultant reports that will provide such initiatives as a mixed use zoning overlay district, streetscape and connectivity studies and business retention and recruitment analyses. Our historic assets are important to the City and will be incorporated and made part of any future development plans for the area."

Director Kathleen Field

Businesses Around the Square

- City, Tourism Board, Main St. Program and Merchants Association must communicate around a shared vision
- Work together to strengthen events for the Square
- "One Stop Shop" needed for new business applications
- Work together to find solutions for employee parking on square, should meters be abolished
- **Consultant to be hired to create business retention and recruitment strategy**

Sense of Place

- Don't lose any more of the buildings that contribute to the character of the town square area
- The "Old South" feel of the town square is an asset to the community
- Balance preservation of community character with economic viability
- Preservation efforts should build consensus rather than be regulatory or punitive



**Main Street
McDonough
Program's
Ladies Night
Out 3
June 9, 2011**

The evening started with a few raindrops but ended with sunshine and ladies in both restaurants and shops.



These hearty shoppers didn't let a few raindrops dampen their spirits or their appetites.

A large number of ladies shared the Square for the June "Ladies Night Out".

The next "Ladies



Councilwoman Sandra Vincent (Right) and friend, Barbara Frazier, join the shoppers.



Main Street Director Linda Schenk (Left) and JRose CEO Rosemary Thornton (Right) congratulate Chevinie Echols on winning the \$500 gift basket. Aiden, 6, is pictured with his mom, the June winner.

"Night Out" will be Thursday, July 14th, 6-9:00 p.m. Be there or be SQUARE!!

Main Street Program's Summer Concert Series



Justin (Left) and Jamie are the front men for the Alabama Blues Brothers and are actually brothers.



The band in action provides a very funny and entertaining show.



Alabama Blues Brothers



The delayed start due to heavy showers could not put a damper on the evening.



This young lad feels the beat as he dances the entire night away to the music of the Alabama Blues Brothers.



Alabama Blues Brother Jamie (Left) waves at the camera.

Thank You, Holiday Inn Express & Suites
A special "thank you" for your support!!

- Dianne McLendon
- Bill Oliver
- Rufus Stewart
- Wanda Ricks
- Jeremy Hobbs
- James Wheeler

City of McDonough Employees' JULY Birthdays



"If we could be twice young and twice old we could correct all our mistakes."

Euripides

- Marshall Battle
- Ray Sanderson
- Teddy Gribbins
- Peggy Moon
- Johnny Battle
- Cheryl Boehrer
- Dave Zoekler



AROUND
TOWN

City on Twitter

www.mcdonoughga.org (homepage right side)



Birthdays are normally not too traumatic. However, when you are turning the BIG 3-0, you must deal with leaving one decade behind and starting another. Don't worry, Julie, you can handle it!!

**Happy JUNE Birthday,
Julie Alexander**

Decorations by Leslie & Joey Balog.

What is more beautiful or patriotic on a warm spring day than the McDonough Square with the flags blowing and the geraniums in full bloom? What a treasure this city has right here!



Early morning flowers on the Square add to that small town Southern charm citizens want to keep alive and thriving in McDonough. Secret Garden and Emily's Attic add more beautiful flowers to the Square.

Main Street Director Linda Schenk jokes with the Blues Brothers, Justin (Left) and Jamie, following the June 18th concert.



This Event is a....



Main Street McDonough Program

*The next
"Ladies Night Out"
will be
Thursday, July 14th
from
6:00 - 9:00 pm*

Dine • Shop • Enjoy

www.mcdonoughga.org

PROTECT SKIN DURING SUMMER

- Avoid direct sun exposure between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. You can use the "Shadow Test" to help avoid direct sun exposure. If your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are at their strongest.
- Wear protective clothing and a hat. Consider clothing with an ultraviolet protection factor.
- Wear sunglasses to protect eyes and the sensitive skin around them.
- Use sunscreen with a Sun Protective Factor (SPF) of 30 or higher; applied often and correctly. Sunscreen should be applied at least 30 minutes before going outside. To ensure full protection, apply one ounce of sunscreen during each application. Sunscreen should be applied every two hours or immediately after swimming, toweling off, or sweating. Children under the age of six months should not be exposed to the sun. Waterproof is better than water resistant sunscreen.

Taken from the June, 2011 Henry Medical Center Newsletter

Upcoming Events & City Meetings

Events

Main Street McDonough Programs In RED

ALL DATES AND TIMES NOTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
VISIT www.mcdonoughga.org FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS.

JULY, 2011

•ICE CREAM SOCIAL (MCDONOUGH SQUARE)	7-04	7:00 P.M.
•PRINCESS PARADE (NEW EVENT-MEET IN MOYE'S PARKING LOT)	7-09	11:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL MEETING	7-11	7:00 P.M.
P/C WORKSHOP	7-12	6:30 P.M.
BOZA	7-14	6:30 P.M.
•Ladies Night Out	7-14	6:00-9:00 P.M.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	7-21	7:00 P.M.
P/C PUBLIC MEETING	7-26	6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP	7-28	5:30 P.M.
•AABC ROBERTO CLEMENTE WORLD SERIES (RICHARD CRAIG PARK)	7-28 THRU 7-31	CITY WEB
•CINEMA ON THE GREEN (ON SQUARE)	7-30	8:30-10:00 P.M.

AUGUST, 2011

CITY COUNCIL MEETING	8-01	7:00 P.M.
HENRY CO. SCHOOLS START BACK	8-01	8:00 A.M.
•MCDONOUGH ARTS UGA ALUMNI ART SHOW (WINSOR GALLERY)	8-05	6-8:00 P.M.
P/C WORKSHOP	8-09	6:30 P.M.
BOZA	8-11	6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL MEETING	8-15	7:00 P.M.
•SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SEAN SHUFFLER BAND (ON SQUARE)	8-20	7-10:00 P.M.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	8-18	7:00 P.M.
P/C PUBLIC MEETING	8-23	6:30 P.M.

Hope Your Independence Day Was Great!!

EVENTS • 770-898-9311

MEETINGS • 770-957-3915