

Advisory Committee January 2025

Attendance:

Barbara Peck, Bob Roseberry, Shawn McKeehan, Geoffrey Smith, Hugh Willson, James Fries, Jo Lundy, John Proffitt, Perry McCowan, Reita Witt and Patti Greek.
Mary Scudder and Anne-Marie Schaffer were unable to attend –sent reports attached

Topic: Discussion on historic overlay and a master plan for beautification of Downtown.

Guest: Frank Clark, Communications Coordinator for the City of Athens.

After our meeting in October, the city manager heard from every member of the committee on the necessary need to improve downtown. Bridget sent the committee the plan that the University of Georgia had given Main Street in 2020. Everyone had ideas and comments as Frank went through the slides.

Points that were made

- **Underground utilities**
- Clean everything, landscaping and buildings
- Too many empty buildings—how can we get new businesses to come into town?
- Branding the new logo for Athens created by Univ of GA
- **Parking**— Everyone was aware that people that have apartments in Downtown are “furnished parking”, not on the street—yet there are parking spaces “secured” for them. However, if they decide not to park there, they need to know they will receive tickets.
Increasing the cost with the numbers of tickets—for example—if you have more than 3, instead of \$10, you may pay \$15 per ticket if it continues to rise. Someone suggested to start towing cars.
- **Security.** With the homeless population growing, not as comfortable walking around the Square anytime. What can be done about that?
- Need more handicap spaces in front of the Annex. Currently there is one.
- As many have said over the years, we need more restaurants, and plan for outdoor dining.
- Add more security -barricades—for events downtown. Currently, concrete barricades are provided by the City at the entrance, just want to make sure there is no way a car can drive like they did in New Orleans. Maybe use firetrucks?
- Graffiti—how can this be stopped? Everyone loves pretty murals—like on Maddie Macs.
- Restructuring buildings. No ordinances are currently in place. If they want to add on to the building, it needs to be done from the back. A time limit for construction “machinery” in front of the building/business.
- Split seat benches are being planned—like that idea. We realized the last ones were not secured to the ground and were also not as “long lasting”.
- Parking Garage? Pro’s and Con’s --on where that can go. Think about security, block the view of the Courthouse if you are on Green Street, Vendors use all the parking lot for all the festivals.
- How can we improve the entrance into Downtown by using Knight Park.

Is it possible that the plans that the University of GA reviewed by the engineers currently doing the 5 Point project—can they make plans to have one lane removed, sidewalks widen and extra parking around the courthouse be put in an actual plan for the City to change and grow. We need curb appeal. Everyone should be proud of their city—especially our historic Downtown.

Election results for the Chair for 2025—Patti Greek

Meetings for 2025: (All Mondays)— April 28th , July 21st, October 20th.

The Committee was notified in both November 2024 & January 2025 of these dates.

February 7, 2025

To: The City Council

From: Patti Greek, Advisory Committee Chairman



Re: Attendance for 2024

Attached is your report for 2024

Please note; the April meeting was *cancelled* by the City Manager, due to there not being a topic to discuss.

Resignations: Lisa Blas-Johnson, Eddie Broadwell and Dale Newman

New members: Barbara Peck (July)
John Duggan (October)

Lack of attendance by some of the committee members have been brought to the attention of each Council member. Attendance is in each months report.
After 3 missed-unexcused absences, a committee member may be asked to leave the committee.

** Please note that we had a different Administration Assistant last April & July—therefore some of the attendance responses may not have come to me for a “approved missed meeting”.

Color guide: yellow -notified us of absence from the meeting.

Red: resigned

Blue: first meeting

Any questions, please ask me!

Thank you for your attention.

Advisory Committee Attendance for 2024

		Jan	April	July	Oct	Called Mtgs
<u>Steve Sherlin:</u>	Elaine Newman	✓	meeting cancelled by City Mgr	✓		
	John Proffitt	✓	- no topic -		✓	
	Geoffrey Smith	✓				
	Dale Newman	✓	Resigned			
	Bob Roseberry	✓				
	Patti Greek	✓			✓	
<u>Larry Eaton</u>	Lisa Blas-Johnson	✓	Resigned			
	Eddie Broadwell	✓	Resigned			
	Anne-Marie Schaffer	✓		✓	✓	
	Sherry Richmond Frank	✓			✓	
	Donald Frank	✓				
	John Duggan				1st Mtg	
<u>Dick Pelley</u>	Andre (Tank) Montgomery					
	James Fries	✓		✓	✓	
	Vacancy					
	Vacancy					
	Vacancy					
<u>Jordan Curtis</u>	Hugh Willson	✓			✓	
	Moises Conteras					
	Tyler Forrest					
	Jo Lundy	✓			✓	
	Barbara Peck			2nd	✓	
Frances Witt McMahan	Bill Wilson	✓		✓	✓	
	Perry McCowan	✓		✓	✓	
	Shawn McKeehan	✓		✓	✓	
	Reita Witt	✓		✓	✓	
	Linda Long	✓		✓	✓	