

January 23, 2019

Sopchoppy Placemaking and Beautification
Competitive Florida Partnership Grant

The special meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Becton Roddenberry with the pledge and a prayer.

Sopchoppy Placemaking Meeting

Caroline Smith with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) presented her ideas and renderings for the Placemaking and Beautification project. Ms. Smith titled her presentation “Artsy and Timeless Downtown”. Key elements consists of contemporary welcome signs and seasonal banners, traffic circles with crosswalk designs, pocket parks with shading and moveable seating, and murals on buildings.

Richard Fetchick (ARPC) presented his ideas and renderings as well. Mr. Fetchick titled his presentation “Rustic Railroad Deco Town”. Key elements consists of roundabout with monuments to Sopchoppy in middle, street paintings (murals painted on the streets leading into town), and history pop-ups (shaded, seating, historical facts for learning).

Each one presented sketch-up models to give eyes to the concepts presented, bringing the ideas to life.

Councilman Roddenberry will be the Chairman of the Sopchoppy Beautification and Revitalization Committee with Samantha Isaacs serving as Vice-Chair. Stella Beeler, Melissa Strickland, Richard Harden, and Elizabeth Carter volunteered to be on the committee as well.

Odie’s Oil (James and Tracie Tinghitella and Bruce Buckley), a locally owned woodworking shop, stated they could assist in building benches/seating, possibly supply lumber at major price reduction.

Becton Roddenberry stated he is willing to be a liaison with County administration and staff.

Lara Edwards volunteered to help with securing Main Street funding/grants.

At this time the Placemaking meeting ended.

Competitive Florida Partnership Grant

Councilman Roddenberry called to order the first of three Stakeholder Engagement Strategy meetings.

The City has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Department of Economic Opportunity. Community outreach is a major part of the grant. Citizens were given the opportunity to name assets in the community, express ideas/desires for what they would like to see downtown, as well suggesting getting local kids involved.

Wayne Cooper expressed his appreciation of the presentation. Mr. Cooper would like see the ideas and renderings have more of what Sopchoppy culture is all about, not modern, consider the history and incorporate ideas presented by attendees.

Stella Beeler agreed with Mr. Cooper. She would like to see more rustic ideas incorporating Sopchoppy roots and history.

There will be 3 more planning meetings, and suggestions brought to the Council by the Committee will be voted on in the future.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion by Beeler, second by Isaacs.