

Gibsonville Development Advisory Commission Meeting Notes  
May 15, 2019

*Attendance*

In attendance were members Ben Baxley (BB), Ricky Cox (RC), Sean Dowell (SD), Lori Lacassagne (LL), Wanda Small (WS), Dick Swank (DS), Steve Harrison (SH), and Lance Wood (LW).

*Review of Prior Business*

**Approval of Last Minutes.** Group reviewed prior meeting notes. Minutes were approved.

*Updates*

**Murals:** Discussed throughout 2019, GDAC continues to evolve this public art concept.

As of his meeting, group discussed potential locations:

- ABC Building @ 120 Lewis Street: SD mid April request to ABC Board of Director member Sandi Moulton to have our murals request put on their monthly board agenda. Per call on 5/15, we will be brought up in next meeting.
- Mason's Building @ 207 East Main Street: SD spoke with chapter leader Brent Swan on 4/23. Prior chapter leader Al was there and mentioned this was an idea he had had in the past. Group will want control of what image can go there and details on install and removal. Our request will be in front of the whole group at their next Tuesday meeting in May or June. Likely the third week if this timing is consistent.
- Kimbers: LL and SD spoke with owner Jeff Younger. He is fine with anything on his side wall *if it is maintained*. If we choose this location, we will have to talk about moving the existing bugs on the building to another building. One idea was to move these “child like” bugs to the side of the public bathrooms by the train (which already gets the kids audience). LL is best future point of contact.
- Lighting Etc @ 115 West Main Street: Pending LL contact. Very visible behind our downtown stage.
- 231 Burke Street and/or LabCorp - Family Dollar Building: Per SD mid May contact with owner Chantelle Stoughton, a mural is okay with them if they can approve the design before install and this is done at no cost to them. Please note this group has a mural on their downtown Mebane building as well.

Group also discussed more detailed topics including:

- Funds: In our last meeting GDAC discussed that the Façade Committee may be a good one to run a potential contest. At this meeting, we discussed using façade money (up to \$6K), as this is already dedicated for both signage and downtown improvements. BB noted that with Alderman approval general funds money could also be used.
- Developing a Contest: GDAC discussed using whom we want to target coming to downtown as the group to target doing the art (or having the art done for). Group had different ideas about whom to market to including Elon students, locals, College art programs, etc. One means of attracting a diverse set of groups was different canvases for different audiences.
- Creative Other Ideas: 1) LL pop up paint projects of one afternoon. These would have an immediate impact and were referred to as “ninja projects.” 2) SD idea of going up rather than out. Thinking vertical, not horizontal. Get a height position, point camera down, and do art work on

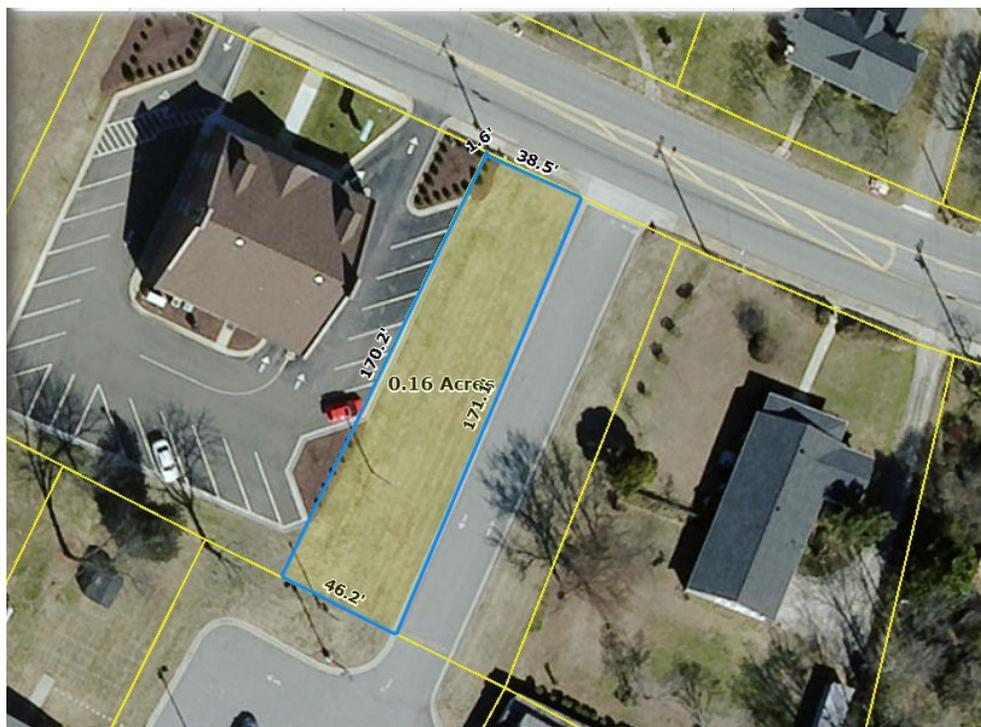
ground. Make suitable for chalk. Do this on greens by kids train. This is something reuseable. 3) Semi permanent wood installations along the rail road tracks between the rose bushes. This would get good visibility, provide a safety and sound buffer from the train, and also be a manageable expense. Typical sign costs are around \$300 - \$500, depending on size. Maintenance of these frames and wood fronts is very do-able. Also, this format would provide an opportunity to change these images in a regular fashion affordably.

All in all, GDAC agrees this project should be run in conjunction with the new town brand. While we are trying to lay the ground work now, this murals idea waits until new town branding is accepted and approved.

**Sidewalk & Bike Lanes:** Expansion of group's discussions last month.

- Bike Connection with Elon. The city of Elon had prior been willing to pursue Impact Alamance money with Gibsonville. The goal was to use Burlington Avenue to connect both downtowns. The below bike park could be one of the two anchors required to make this connection a reality. GDAC discussed that Burlington Road is big enough if restriped to put a bike land on the existing roadway. Unlike the expensive sidewalks required for Westbrook Avenue, this connection could be much lower cost.
- Fidelity Bike Racks / Park. Kids and pets are the biggest two draws, per commercial real estate development figures. SD and LL have been in discussions with Fidelity about a bike feature on the "Elon side of downtown." Per SD call with Fidelity manager Billie Wilson on 5/15, she likes the idea. If GDAC or the town would send her specifics (project type, cost, funding, etc), she would run use of this land past her corporate office. Location outlined below:

Fidelity Bike Rack &/Or Pet Park



GDAC greatly supports this idea and requests Alderman and the Mayor take this opportunity on.

**Recreational Signage:** GDAC prior had a goal of signage to our downtown from all local parks. This was accomplished with one large exception: active Northeast Park. BB noted that “funding was tight” and this was not a real consideration this year.

*New Business*

**Drones:** Discussion of vertical opportunities had the group talking about drones. SD notes that targeted uses of roofs would make Gibsonville unique in the google map aerials everyone loves to use today. Also, if we did this Gibsonville could become a drones destination location. A portion of the mill could be used for drone races, for example. WS offered use of her roof. The group liked this idea in general, which will need to be flushed out in more detail.

**A New Elon Connection:** Request by Pamela Graham, Elon Planning Director that SD be on LDO Rewrite Committee. SD accepted this role.

**GDAC’s Next Goal:** GDAC believes the downtown area by the new bathrooms is under utilized. This is the area the cannon is currently located at. Group discussed memorials history and other related details. Doing a rehab of the Greens was the goal GDAC was interested in pursuing after the current Murals project.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is planned for June 19th, 2019 from 2 PM – 3:30 PM. This is a typical third Wednesday of the month meeting.