

# Economic Development Committee Report 4/10/24

## 1. Review of Site Visits

**Sanford** - Hosted by City Asst. Mgr & Econ Dev Director. W/In their 30yr plan, Geographically sectioned into economic engines. Downtown fueled by hospitality, professional, and retail. Parking and 6 blocks to walk to lakeside are challenges. Lots of outdoor spaces and alleyways converted to sitting and entertainment areas. Events such as Front Porch music fest help bring people to downtown.

**Winter Garden** - Hosted by Economic development. Within 20 comp plan. City owned building and land to start development. Strict Architectural standards maintain historic aesthetic. 10pts of interest used to create spaces with multiple activities. Crooked Can privately invested in Plant Street Market to create a food hall and destination in town. Weekly farmers market outsourced to event management from creates regular crowds as do monthly events.

**Clermont** - Chamber of Commerce and investor led tour. Development initiated by private investor, Darren Johnson, who collaborates and works well with city hall. They do not have an economic development director. Infrastructure for roads, drainage and parking were put in at request and design of the investor. Mainstreet was formed by Darren and promotes the downtown businesses. Weekly farmer market and other regular events are bringing crowds. Downtown is in close proximity to lakefront and trails.

**Mt. Dora** - Chamber Pres and Econ Dev Dir hosted group. They just secured a tech company in one of their historic buildings. Mount Dora Center for the Arts 501-c3 runs one of the South's largest art festivals there. The city is right on Lake Dora with a marina and the historic Lakeside Inn. Many great restaurants and bars attract visitors from all over and there are several streets with retail. Art galleries and a museum featuring David Bowie furniture really set Mt. Dora apart. The Chamber is very active to promote businesses here. There are new food halls and lot's of uniqueness. Wayfinding signs help people locate businesses and volunteer operated golf carts move visitors around town. Both initiatives are funded by paid sign advertising.

2. Parking Garage Update - RFP's are out, CRA Project, 3-5 yrs for project

Final suggested location - Massachusetts and city land

Details: decks, retail, event space, restrooms, green space -TBD

3. Wayfinding Signs

Status report - To Council 4/18

Possible collaboration w/ Mainstreet

4. Downtown Streets

Status of any legal/procedural action - Gong to mediation first and in progress

Recommendation for future - Antranette & Veronica managing. We suggested paved streets with brick crosswalks for future road beautification. We suggested neater work area when repairs commence and to work in smaller sections.

Maintenance program will be created

5. Downtown Mobility - Petty cabs are going to council. Possible start by July 4th, Jarvus Brown of Granny's BBQ is the business owner/operator.

6. Public Restrooms - City is looking at extending the police substation or remodel building to restrooms.

7. Land Use Code - City is reorganizing as part of comprehensive plan to make the codes more business friendly

8. City Comprehensive Plan - On schedule and working with consulting firm for vision.
  
9. EDC will meeting last Wednesday of month at 9am going forward