

Executive Director's Report April 2025

Economic Development

Active Projects

Lamar Building. New Investors on board.

Proposed Hospitality Project. Financing underway with Synovus. Georgia Power is completing the economic impact report.

East Boundary Student Housing.

Marion Building Crossway Partners. Under Contract. Looking at DDA incentives. Will apply for housing credits in October.

Framework-Curtis Baptist. Phillip Smith 2-21. Site design completed, financing is secured, closing scheduled for June 2025 and construction will commence in the fall.

Bradley's Barbeque- SSBCI Loan Approved.

Project with AEDA-Trip to Macon on 2/7. Kirby is assisting with incentives.

Student Housing Developer/Matt Forshee/Developer in town for site visits March 28 and April 16.

Haltermann Properties/Sherman & Hemstreet. RFP has been issued. Call on 2/26 with Joe Edge.

Firethorn has purchased 943 Jones Street for Office Space. \$2 mil project. Working on SSBCI Loan

Choice Skinner-film studio. SSBCI Loan

Meeting with Edie Weintraub April 30. Retail specialist out of Atlanta

Façade Grants

Augusta Players-approved by board in April.

Fifth & Fire- approved by board in March.

Bradley's Barbeque- Approval by board in June or July..

Ribbon Cuttings:

Fifth & Fire April 23

Augusta Players May 9

Accelerate Augusta 600 Broad Street

Phase 1

Website is up www.accelerateaugusta.org.

City approved \$200,000 for roof and MOU has been executed. Change order has been executed with McKnight. Work has been completed.

Drainage issue in discussion.

Construction meeting held 4/17. Elevator has passed inspection. Final inspection is 4/21.

Punch list completed 4/17.

501c(3) and Bylaws are completed for DDA approval.

In conversation with AU, Miller-Motte, Fort Eisenhower Alliance & Paine College to discuss potential partnerships.

We will begin SBA final paperwork for submittal by end of June.

Phase II discussions underway. An Appropriation grant has been submitted for a blighted property.

In discussion for a commissary kitchen.

Partnership with Saturday Market.

Interviews under way for Executive Director. 5 interviews on May 12.

CO has been received and we have the keys.

Workshops and Activities are taking place at the building.

Grand Opening will be scheduled this summer once an ED is hired.

Accelerate Augusta committee members approved bylaws in April and are setting up a 501c3.

They also approved a strategic plan at that meeting.

We have received a bid for tree removal and signage should the budget allow.

Design

Outdoor Adventure Center

Concept has been approved and design is underway.

AT Masterplan

Meeting with stakeholders and Gehl Consultants held 2/21.

Carl Vinson Downtown Visioning & Design

Meeting with Mattie Sue Stevens March 7.

Meeting with Tameka Allen April 23.

Presentation for Destination Augusta May 21.

Meeting with Commissioner Johnson and City Administrator on May 22.

Broad Street TIA Project

Public meeting held 2/6.

Downtown Businesses met with officials at Luigi's on 2/24.

Commission Discussion held at meeting on 2/25.

Proposing Ellis Street as one way, Reynolds down to 2 lanes and enforce 2 hour parking.

Final Presentation to Commission will be after public Meeting on May 21 at 5 pm at Fatman's Event Space Enterprise Mill.

Working with City Administrator to ensure a seamless project as possible in regards to communication and messaging.

Current parking situation on Broad:

760 substandard spaces.

620 spaces would be available if restriped and brought up to standard.

TIA plan shows 590 spaces with a net loss of 30.

Reynolds Street will add 400 new spaces.

Ellis will have a net gain of 30 with one-way designation.

Jones Street Alley Improvements

\$1.7 Million Grant from Gov. Kemp.

Improvements will include new paving, brick work, furniture and planters. Private sector participation includes right-of-way and building demotion for access into the Common.

Meeting held May 1 and all parties have approved the preliminary design.

Meeting with Nathan Vick on May 21 to discuss HPC.

Chronic Vacancy/Blight Initiative

Meeting with City Administrators Office April 23.

The overall concept was well -received.

3-prong approach:

Building Registry

Revolving Loan Fund.

Empty Building Tax.

We are working on other funding mechanisms and preparing a white paper.

Follow-up meetings next week.

Other:

Audit completed for board approval in May.

Organization

Keen Investiture

4/24.

Sculpture Trail Ribbon Cutting

5/2