

## **Economic Development Committee Update**

### **September 10, 2018**

1. The August Fabulous Fourth Friday was held on August 24th. Attendance was a moderate but enthusiastic. The game area again appeared to be a draw for all ages and this month. Also, using wide painters paper we pasted up a 20 foot long "Whiteboard Wall" for people to comment on the question "What's on your bucket list?" The goal was to engage the community in conversation. This time we only had 7 responses but as we learn how to draw more people to the 'Wall' we hope to engage more people. The band was enjoyable and attracted a number of listeners. The committee is continuing to work on a sponsorship program for the remaining events and next year. We have dropped the sale of beer for September as sales were low and the insurance cost high. We will try next year to get a local brewery to sponsor beer sales.
2. Still waiting on DelDot to complete their review of the approved town entrance sign plans created by Impact Graphix and the town to make sure all their requirements are met. Once their review is complete, the signs will be installed.
3. We submitted to Jesse a document for a new Ongoing Façade Grant program. We request the commission review the document and will be happy to answer any questions about it. The ongoing grant will be available to new and existing businesses to help with their façade improvements. Initial funding for the program will be \$10,000. Each individual grant request will have a cap of \$2,500 with a 50% match. The idea of an ongoing grant versus a one time grant was patterned after Seaford and Georgetown.
4. The EDC recognizes that more volunteers are needed to effectively continue the EDC's programs and events and will be working on a volunteer request campaign.
5. At the upcoming September meeting, the committee will be reviewing some of the additional placemaking suggestions made by in the Muldrow strategic planning report. The goal is to see if there are some appropriate items that could be pursued by the committee.
6. Attended the Downtown Delaware Workshop in Dover where Rick Ferrell gave a presentation on "Quick Tips on Downtown Business Retention/Expansion/Recruitment". Briefly talked to Rick who agreed to meet in the fall to talk about different ways he could interact and advise the EDC pertaining to economic development and what costs might be involved. At the meeting it was announced that Diane Laird was leaving her post and they hadn't found a replacement yet.

Richard Grinnell  
Chairperson, Economic Development Committee