

Farmersville Main Street Board
Meeting Minutes 03/16/10
5:00 p.m., Best Center

The meeting was brought to order at 5:10 p.m. Present were Main Street Manager, Adah Leah Wolf; Jim Dawkins, Randal Shinn, Carol Tapp. Guest attendees: John Moran, City Manager; Diane Piwko, Gordon Scott, and Jim Foy.

Minutes from 02/23/10: Randal Shinn made a motion that the February 23, 2010 minutes be accepted as printed; Carol Tapp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial Statements from February: Printed report for February, 2010 was submitted by Main Street Manager, Adah Leah Wolf. Motion was made by Carol Tapp to accept report as printed; seconded by Randal Shinn. The motion passed.

Report from City Manager: City is in process of adopting International Codes for 2006 (Fuel, Fire, Energy Conservation). This will apply to new construction and remodels only (not cosmetic changes). City also putting together a construction packet with a section devoted to Codes. Randal asked if new Codes applied to Change of Occupancy. Mr. Moran indicated they did not, only if change in type of business (food service) applies.

Mr. Moran stated that the new codes were not meant to punish building owners; rather they were “safety in nature”. Codes were not meant to be punitive and there would be exceptions for historical buildings to preserve historical integrity. Fire and Handicap Codes were also being reviewed. Diane suggested an external fire alarm system which notifies neighboring buildings when a fire is identified. Mr. Moran made note of the suggestion and will follow-up.

Food Ordinance was also discussed. Main goal is to prevent food borne illnesses in Farmersville. What currently is in place is inadequate. New codes will follow State health laws. Food inspectors will be identified and secured for the future. New codes should not affect special events planned for the downtown area. Diane Piwko expressed concern that new food ordinance would increase fees. Mr. Moran assured Diane that financial hardships would be considered going forward. Randal Shinn suggested the City Council hold “workshops” to discuss new Codes, and include representatives from the downtown businesses.

Current Texas Department of Transportation issues directly affecting Farmersville are the repairs to the bridge on Main and Hwy 380 and future street closures for events. The bridge at Hwy 380 and Main Street was hit again by a driver and is being repaired by TXDOT. An additional three foot clearance and flashing height warning signs for the bridge are being discussed with TXDOT. All agreed more communication between City and Downtown is critical moving forward. John Moran is working with 4A to secure funding for a “signature bridge” at Hwy 380 and additional signage. A schedule of

potential street closures for future events has been submitted to TXDOT. Diane Piwko asked if downtown business owners could be notified before closures.

Open Container Ordinance has been controversial over the past several months. The impetus behind the new ordinance was a concern by City Council members that downtown events be “family oriented”. Randal Shinn asked if this was necessary as there is already an open container law. Randal’s concern was for possible future events where serving wine (wine tasting) or (concert) might be considered. If the Ordinance becomes too confined we could be hand-cuffing ourselves. He asked if the Council had considered a possible café on the Square that might want to serve beer and wine in an outdoor setting. Mr. Moran stated that the intent was to “protect events”. John offered to talk to the Council regarding the necessity of additional Ordinance. Carol Tapp expressed her concern about bringing religion into City Issues (church and State); she feels Farmersville can remain “family friendly” and still put on successful downtown events where alcohol will be available. In summary, Mr. Moran told group his intent was not to burden Downtown and that he was “on your side” and that there was a method to his actions which may not always be apparent.

Report from Main Street Manager: The 125th Anniversary of the Farmersville Times is March 25th. Chad Engbrock, Editor, is planning an Open House to celebrate. Adah Leah will send flyer via email to anyone who wishes to pass it on.

Adah Leah spoke with Ben White, Chamber President, about partnering with Main Street in bringing Good Business Seminar to Farmersville.

4-B named Doug Dann as their representative to the Marketing Committee, 4-A will name a member after the city election.

Farmers and Fleas Market had a better turnout in March as the weather improved. April is the Rotary Blood Drive and May is the Garden Club Craft Sale.

The historic signs Committee is moving forward with the project. Building owners are beginning to respond. They have heard from Van Winkles, Library, Health Clinic, and Clarks. The next meeting will be scheduled and will report back to the Board.

Work continues on the façade of the Blevins Kinkade Gallery at 102 McKinney Street. The investment Roy and Helen Blevins have made is a benefit to all of Farmersville.

Doug Laube is meeting with Wayne Bell, Main Street Architect, next Tuesday regarding structural issues with his building at 129 McKinney Street.

Adah Leah to add Main Street board meetings to monthly calendar sent to downtowners.

Report from Downtown Merchants Association: FDMA decided with all the Easter events going on that they would pass on doing something Downtown. FDMA will sponsor a Meet the Candidate night on April 16th. Janis and Wayne May have agreed to

let us use their building to host event. Randal Shinn is challenged to find leases for unoccupied buildings on the Square.

Development: Blevins and Laube building currently under improvement. Investigating brown signs for historical designation.

Future Agenda Items: automatic watering for downtown plants, final work plan, FDMA report, and parks report.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Randal Shinn and seconded by Carol Tapp. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.