

## **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

### **Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia Meeting**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015**

### **Gordon County Chamber of Commerce**

Welcome: Ron and Sue Underwood, Walker Co Historical Soc, Don Holley, Gordon Co Parks and Rec, Bryan King, Rome/Floyd Planning Department, Jim Hunter, TRED, Julie Meadows, NWGRC, Julie Smith, BWNWGA, Charlie Jones, NWGRC

Call In: John Johnston, Cave Spring, Lisa Stone, NWGPH

-FY 2015 GDOT Contract: Per Charlie, the contract was received December 1 and subsequently signed by NWGRC.

-Cave Spring-Cedartown feasibility study: Per Charlie, ALTA Planning has been chosen to conduct the feasibility study from January-June 2015. Contract approval must be given by the NWGRC Council but that will happen in the next month. There were two RFP's submitted and given ALTA's reputation and their work on the Silver Comet Trail EIA, they were chosen based on familiarity with the region. Britt Storck will serve as project manager with Brad Davis assisting.

-Teens in the Driver's Seat Program: Charlie reported that he and two ladies from NWGRC attended a training session at GDOT for this new program in the workscope. The program is centered on peer to peer interaction around safe driving and alleviating risky behavior. If anyone has high school referrals please pass them to Charlie as a school sponsor is needed.

-Report: Rome/Floyd Trail Plan Update: Bryan reported that currently the planning department is in a holding pattern while a bike/ped steering committee is formed to study changes to Broad Street further. Bryan is excited about the possibilities for Broad. Julie Smith gave a background on the series of public meetings that were held in the fall.

-Brochure: The current BWNWGA brochure is old (2012) and needs to be updated. Thoughts are to: take out the bike route map, slim down the brochure to fewer pages, add more links to events and chambers, remove local events such as cancer walks, highlight the 15 county area the RC serves, and change the name of the brochure. John Johnston suggested using an app called "Track" to map and write text for locations and GIS mapping. If anyone has any ideas, please send to Charlie.

New Business: Bryan mentioned that he is forming a committee at the Rome/Floyd Planning Dept. to study public art along Broad Street/downtown Rome. Art would be pedestrian friendly, create a sense of place, possibly wayfinding and serve as landmarks and infrastructure. Also they are studying more art along the trails.

Charlie gave background on the BWNWGA microgrant program and stressed that the payment is from the NWGRC to the vendor.

Julie Smith announced the second annual GA Trail Summit will be June 4-6 in Athens, GA.

Julie Meadows is the new NWGRC Director of Regional Planning. She stated that she is excited to be on board with BWNWGA and thanked the group for their past successes.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 12 at 9am at the Rome Office.