

News from Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOWNTOWN “GAME PLAN” TASK FORCE CONTINUES RESEARCH

(Hot Springs, AR) May 15, 2014 – The public hearings by the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce/Metro Partnership-sponsored Downtown Game Plan Task Force are completed, but the Task Force members are still hard at work. Continued meetings, conversations and research are ongoing in preparation for an early summer release of their findings.

“We’re continuing the dialogue with county government, arts community representatives, downtown property owners, developers and dozens of others who have brought forth some great ideas,” said Chamber/Metro CEO, Jim Fram. “We conducted an online survey that indicated community leadership is solidly behind our efforts and people are ready to get involved financially.”

The online survey, completed at the end of April was filled out by more than 350 from a universe that included members of the Chamber and Metro Partnership, Young Professionals, Fifty for the Future, Future Fund and both Rotary Clubs in downtown. The survey gauged opinions about downtown usage, affirmed support for the Task Force and indicated that more than 40% of respondents would consider moving into a downtown building or investing in a fund to renovate historic structures.

The Task Force members have also been reviewing and digesting historical articles, flood control plans, rockslide studies and numerous other documents provided by government and private sources. They are also considering public input submitted via a blog at the City of Hot Springs website and via comment cards at the public meetings.

The Task Force report is beginning to take shape with short-term, mid-range and long-term goals organized in a matrix that considers funding/support, infrastructure and other common factors.

The nine community leaders who make up the task force are:

- Corey Alderdice, Director, Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts
- Courtney Crouch, President of Selected Funeral and Life Insurance Company
- Keeley DeSalvo, President of PS Foods
- Randy Fale District 6 City Director
- Mark Fleischner, owner of Lauray's The Diamond Center
- Paul Riser, 2014 Chairman of the Hot Springs Metro Partnership
- Bryan Smith, 2014 Chairman of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Les Warren, past Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce
- Ron Wehmann, a retired Weyerhaeuser Company executive

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