



## Economic Development Department

### Monthly Update Report – March 2022

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#### **ACTIVITY**

- **Attending CBA Marketing, Policy, and Leadership meetings**

I am currently attending CBA Marketing Committee, Policy Committee, and Leadership Council meetings to network with these business owners and find new ways the Department and the Tourism Development Authority can be a part of their initiatives. The 203 Project and Downtown Parking study have been the center of on-going concerns and discussions with the CBA and their respective committees.

- **Draft Parking Study Submitted, Staff Comments Returned**

Walker Parking Consultants submitted the draft copy of the Downtown Carrboro Parking Study mid-December. Staff have reviewed the parking study and sent a series of comments back to Walker to provide additional information and response. We anticipate a presentation and release to the Council on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

- **Business Alliance and ESC Mentor Program Under Development**

We are working to develop a new program for new businesses in Carrboro to be matched with a local business mentor. While this will be similar to SCORE's services, it will be less structured than SCORE's program and will primarily function as a networking opportunity for new start-ups. Both the CBA and the ESC are encouraged by this program and members are willing to participate. Progress on this program has been delayed due to the COVID-19 Mitigation Grant Program.

- **Wayfinding Program under Development for Downtown**

I have been working with Public Works and Communication staff regarding finalizing the development of a wayfinding program for downtown and particularly for public parking in downtown. We hope to have it included in the 2022-2023 CIP and Budget.

- **Inter-City Visit Meetings Underway for Fall 2022 Visit**

I have been working with the Chamber and other jurisdictions to meet and discuss options for moving forward with an Inter-City visit again this year since postponing the 2020 trip. At this point a potential trip to Blacksburg or Asheville coupled with another location look most likely.

- **All Business Briefing Being Scheduled for April**

In conjunction with the CBA, we will be hosting an All Business Briefing meeting inviting all businesses to join us for a 2 hour event providing an update on business activities in Carrboro. This event will also include networking opportunities and a "vendor hall" where businesses can make connections with our economic development partners at the Small Business Center @ Durham Tech. and Small Business and Technical Development Center @ UNC.

- **BIPOC Business Update**

Partnering with the Small Business Center at Durham Tech, we are hosting two new

entrepreneurship curriculum/training that are targeted toward BIPOC entrepreneurs. One will be for existing young (1-3 years old) businesses, and one for entrepreneurs with a business idea. Scholarships provided by Wells Fargo are available for those who may need them. The Town is supplying the hosting at YouthWorx for the classes. The classes will start mid-April running through the end of May.

## **PROJECTS**

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**

Current Status: BIPOC Business Roundtable being scheduled for Q2.

Next Steps: Continue to hold BIPOC Business Roundtable Meetings and develop a mentorship program.

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process.

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan – Implementation of the Plan**

Current Status: The ESC has reviewed and accepted the draft goals and strategies that the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce and Teska have created.

Next Steps: ESC will begin the implementation and development of performance measures for their elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Projected Completion: On-going

- **Downtown Parking Study – Presentation with Council Schedule for April 26th**

Current Status: Staff have provided comments back to Walker for their response and incorporation into the Study. A presentation is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Next Steps: Final review and acceptance by the Town Council.

Project Completion: April 2022

- **COVID-19 Mitigation Business Grants – Checks Issued, 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Coming**

Current Status: All checks from the first round of approvals have been sent.

Next Steps: Remaining funding approvals are scheduled to be reviewed on April 8.

Project Completion: June 2022

- **203 Project Parking Replacement**

Area	Spaces	Availability	Status	Completion
203 S. Greensboro (203 Project)	-100	24/7	--	
Dispute Settlement Center	+6	24/7	Not started	Q1 2022
CommunityWorx	+12	24/7	Not started	Q1 2022
309 N. Greensboro (Fitch)	+51	Evening & 24 hrs. Weekends	Agreement Under Review	Q1 2022
502B N. Greensboro (Fitch)	+20	24/7	Completed	
300 E. Main (behind ArtsCenter)	+62	Daytime	Completed	
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>+51</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	