

Whigham Visioning and Funding Work Session
January 18, 2024

Attendees:

Jon McBrayer – Facilitator
Daniel Martin
Chris Addleton, Grady JDA
Jim York, Civil Engineer
Mayor Trey Gainous
Rachel Jensen, City Clerk
Josh Ausburn, Utilities Director
Jim Sellers
Jimmie Laing
Jane Trulock, local business owner
Judy Sullivan, volunteer
Robert Porter
Linda Westberry, USDA
John Ford, Onsite
Phil Reed
Tina Herring, GDEcD
Heather Sharpe, DCA

Mayor Gainous kicked off the meeting, followed by Jon giving an overview of ECG and our role with assisting the City. Daniel gave a brief overview of retail development.

DCA, USDA, and RCAP gave presentations on funding opportunities and strategies.

The group also broke out and conducted a SWOT Analysis:

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Strengths	Small Community	Infrastructure	Low Crime
	School	Location	Hometown Feel
	Utilities	Rattlesnake Roundup	Volunteer Community
	Rattlesnake Roundup	Officials/Initiative	Fiber
			Eager Community
Weaknesses	Sewer	Sewer	Sewer
	Downtown Bldg	Lack of Parking	Lack of Housing
	Zoning	Lack of Funding	Lack of Food
		Cost of Services	Lack of retail
			Lack of social activities
			Room for growth tough

Opportunities	Gifted Buildings	Vacant Houses	Blank slate
	Rural Zone	Retail Buildings	Location/Hwy 84
		Personal Buildings	Real Estate
			Nursing Home
			DDA
Threats	Missing Income Threshold		Aging Population
			Electrical Base
			Lack of Infrastructure

Moving forward for Whigham:

1. Water/Sewer: Look at the SEARCH grant, and other grants. Volunteer groups will also look into funding opportunities
2. Activating the DDA/Downtown Revitalization
3. Business Growth

Projects:

1. Downtown Park Enhancement: no trees! Need at least 8ft opening up front. Look at moving the brick and replace with wrought iron.