

DDA Chairman's Report—July 2009

Lillian Webb Park has been substantially completed and a July 3 opening ceremony introduced our newest park to the citizenry. Work is now underway to construct an entrance building on Britt Avenue which will house restroom facilities. A formal dedication of the park is planned for September. Be sure to watch for details about the "Southern Lawn Party".

Construction of this park was made possible because our voters approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) initiatives in 2004 and 2008 which provided the necessary funds. In brief, the 2005 SPLOST (approved in 2004) earmarked \$5 Million for recreational facilities in Norcross, along with just over \$1 Million for roads and streets and \$344,000 for public safety. The 2009 SPLOST sets aside another \$3.5 Million for recreational facilities, \$1.5 Million for roads and streets, \$2 Million for administrative facilities, and \$2 Million for parking facilities.

The City used \$2 Million from 2005 SPLOST to purchase the church and rectory property that has become the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center, leaving \$3 Million plus \$3.5 Million from 2009 SPLOST for other recreational facilities. Out of that \$6.5 Million, we are using about \$4.5 Million for Webb Park, plus another \$460,000 from road and street SPLOST funds for the drainage system, sidewalks, and street improvements around the park. Irrigation for the extensive landscaping in the park comes from the recently drilled well on the property.

The City has received a \$35,000 grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission which, along with an equal amount of matching funds from the 2009 SPLOST, will enable us to conduct a parking study for the downtown area. We expect the study to be completed this summer, after which we can begin planning parking capacity for the existing downtown and the new mixed use development that will occur around Webb Park.

Conversion of the old Adams home on College Street into a restaurant is proceeding and we are working with the owners of the Bleu House Café to move them into this location. There are new trees on South Peachtree Street in downtown and the electrical system along the street has been upgraded, along with conduit for eventual installation of an outdoor music system.

Tixie Fowler, our new Downtown Manager, is on the job and working with the merchants and individual citizens to create an exciting downtown environment that will help to ensure the economic viability of our downtown businesses. The most prominent example of her efforts is the Norcross Whistle Stop Farmers Market on Tuesday afternoons. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked with Tixie to bring another outstanding and successful event to Norcross!