

# Main Street Program

A Report on Recent and Upcoming Downtown Happenings

Main Street Program Report - February 2022

## Two New Businesses Open in Downtown Temple



John and Ashley Vernon (at right-center) opened 'FoxDog' on February 4



Devin Li (at right) will open 'Cha Community' on March 4

Downtown Temple is adding two exciting new food and beverage establishments to its already impressive list of popular restaurants and watering holes. 'FoxDog' opened its doors at 209 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and 'Cha Community', at 7 N Main Street, is expected to open on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Fox Dog will offer coffee, craft beer, wine, and coffee-house snacks. They will also invite local food trucks to provide more hearty meals. Cha Community will offer many flavors of boba tea, some infused with milk - and some not. They also plan to offer pan-fried dumplings, cold noodles, and other Taiwanese-style dishes.

## Temple Parks & Rec. to Mark National Puppy Day with 'Pawz on the Plaza'



Join us on March 19th for 'Pawz on the Plaza'. The event will be held at Santa Fe Plaza, and all well-behaved and leashed dogs will be welcome. Guests at the event will be able to watch an amazing dog-trick show, take stroll down the doggie 'Treat Trail', get a live sketch drawn or a professional photo taken of their dog, participate in a fun pet costume contest, and visit the many local vendors that will set up around the plaza!

## Coming Up This Month:

**Through March. 16** - Come see the current traveling exhibit at the Railroad Museum: 'Aliento a Tequila - The Spirit of Tequila'

**March 4 - 'First Friday'** including merchant discounts, happy-hour specials, street-fair block-parties with vendors, and live music

**March 5 - 'Fiesta Family Day'** at Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum

**March 11 - 'Down at The Yard'**, a quarterly outdoor party at 'The Yard' food truck plaza, with live music by 'Amber Dreams'

**March 12 - 'Muggle Mayhem'** at Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum.

**March 12 - The TSBC's 'Downtown Spring Market & Food Truck Frenzie'**

**March 19- 'Pawz on the Plaza'** dog festival at Santa Fe Plaza

**April 2** - Temple Children's Museum's annual gala dinner: the so-called '**Celebrity Host Dinner**'. Follow this link for tickets: [www.templechildrensmuseum.org/events](http://www.templechildrensmuseum.org/events)

## Promotion

### First Fridays in February and March Feature New Business Openings

The Main Street Promotion Committee met on February 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed several issues. The first item on the committee's agenda was a report on downtown activities that had happened over the preceding weekend.

The first of these was the First Friday event on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Several of those present at the committee meeting said there was pretty good activity downtown despite the cold weather. Committee members then took a moment to look at the First Friday event photos that could be found in the meeting agenda packet.

Members noted that FoxDog Coffee Craft Beer & Wine had staged their grand opening on First Friday as well. JD McBride told the Committee that FoxDog would be opened on Fridays-only from 4:30 – 10 PM, for the time being, and he explained that they are still waiting on their espresso machine.



Photos by Chris Winston

*About a hundred guests helped John & Ashley Vernon celebrate the Grand Opening of FoxDog on First Friday, Feb. 4th*

Mr. McBride also said that his brew-pub, Fire Base Brewing, had closed on First Friday due to the cold weather, and that they would resume their normal monthly outdoor block parties on First Fridays in March.

Next, Emilie Wright of Ras Kitchen told the Committee that their Speed Dating Event on first Friday had to be canceled due to the cold weather. She also told the Committee that they had hosted a last-minute Father-Daughter Dance on Saturday from 6 – 10 PM. Ms. Wright said she had been contacted by a parent and asked if they could host the event since the original Father-Daughter event, sponsored by Temple Parks & Rec. Dept., had to be canceled due to the weather. Ms. Wright said the girls who attended this substitute event had a lot of fun and that everyone had enjoyed themselves. Also, Nnehkai Agbor reported to the group that Tour Temple/Corky's had a good turnout on First Friday despite the weather.

Next Temple Railroad Museum Manager, Mike Hicks, reported on the 'Geek-Out' Family Day', that had been held on February 5. Hicks said this event too was canceled due to cold weather conditions.

Next there was a discussion about upcoming First Fridays. The group noted that the theme for the First Friday on March 4<sup>th</sup> will be Mardi Gras & Saint Patrick's Day. JD McBride reminded the Committee that Fire Base Brewing Co. would resume their First Friday Block parties starting March 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, Tita Charleston, of 'Total Elegance Creations', said she planned to host a Mardi Gras-themed party with beignets and beads, and free hurricanes, and beer. In addition, Selesse Thompson of Precious Memories and Gift Shop said she would arrange to have a Mardi Gras-themed Santa at her store, 'Precious Memories – Downtown', and she said she would also offer a book signing event by a local children's author.

Also, the new boba tea shop, 'Cha Community' will open its doors for business on March 4th. This new tea shop will be located at 7 N Main Street.



*'Cha Community' plans to open their new boba tea shop on First Friday, March 4th*



## Promotion

### Committee Discussed Music and Food Trucks Coming in March

[Continued from page 2] Also, Jenny Morales of the 'Chock Full of Cheese' food truck said she did not know of any special plans at 'The Yard' Food Truck Plaza for First Friday, but she said that most of the food trucks should be expected to be open on that evening.

Ms. Morales also mentioned that she and other food truck owners would like to host an event at The Yard, but they did not know where to start. Main Street Mgr., Dan Kelleher, said that completing an Outdoor Event Application would be her first step, and that she should also contact Holly Leiferman of the Parks and Recreation Department who administers the Outdoor Event Application process.

It was also noted that on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Temple Parks & Rec. Dept. plans to stage another of its quarterly music events at The Yard Food Truck Plaza called 'Down @ The Yard', and on that evening the duet, Amber Dreams will perform live.



*The musical duet, 'Amber Dreams' will perform live at the 'Down @ The Yard', event at 'The Yard' food truck plaza*

Next, committee members noted that the themes for the First Friday on April 1st theme will be April Fools Day, Easter, and Springtime.

Next on the agenda was a report on the activities of the Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum. Museum Manager Mike Hicks informed the Committee that the next Family Fun Day would be 'Fiesta Family Day' on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, he said they will host a Harry Potter-themed event called Muggle Mayhem on March 12th. Mr. Hicks also reported that the current traveling exhibit at the museum is 'Aliento a Tequila' (or The Spirit of Tequila), and that it will run through March 16. He said this exhibition explores and celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to Mexico's national drink: Tequila. He added that the museum's next exhibit would be 'Lonesome Dove'. This exhibit will capture the sweeping visual imagery of the original Lonesome Dove miniseries, and it will present classic images taken during filming by Bill Wittliff. The final report Mr. Hicks made to the Committee was that the museum's new Art Train, painted by local artist Miranda Malloy, would be unveiled on Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 PM.



Photo: Christopher Winston

*On Feb. 11th, local artist Miranda Malloy and Railroad & Heritage Museum Mgr. Mike Hicks unveiled their new art train*

The next item discussed by the committee was a report on the activities of the Temple Small Business Coalition and the Downtown Market. JD McBride told the Committee that the date for the Spring Market will be March 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-7 PM and he added that his plan is to incorporate another 'Food Truck Frenzy' into this month's market, and perhaps to continue this practice quarterly.

The next item discussed by the committee was a report on activities of the Marketing & Communications Dept. Teresa Anderson passed out some new QR code window clings to committee members. The QR code offers a web-link to a downtown digital map with helpful information about the locations of downtown shops, restaurants and attractions, and information about downtown promotional activities.



*Food Truck Frenzies have become very popular on downtown Market days*



## Promotion

### Downtown Kiosks Will Receive Updated Information Panels Soon

[Continued from page 3] ...and it provides information about First Friday offerings and specials, and downtown construction updates. Ms. Anderson also explained that this new QR code is flexible and that Communications Coordinator, Sennett Farias can make changes in its linked information whenever needed.

Anderson then informed the Committee that the two downtown four-panel kiosks are expected to be updated by March, and she also told the group that the barrel signs that mark the entrances to the downtown district are currently being redesigned. Finally, she reported that the sidewalk decals we have discussed are still being researched, and she explained that they wouldn't want to use any material that could damage the pavers.

A Committee member asked if there was a way to add 'The Yard' Food Truck Plaza to the current wayfinding signage. Heather Bates, Director of Marketing and Communication, said there might be a way to make some small, near-term changes to the current wayfinding signage in order to direct people to The Yard, and that she would look into that possibility.



*The messages on the downtown kiosks will be updated soon*

Next on the agenda was a discussion about the Chamber of Commerce's 'Business After Hours' reception in April that will be hosted by the Main Street Program and by the downtown business community. Dan Kelleher told the Committee that they are still working on selecting a venue for the event, and he added that the date for the event would most likely be on the 3rd or the 4th Thursday in April. Kelleher also added that we will want to strongly encourage downtown businesses and non-profit organizations to attend the event and set up a table or booth with information about their business or organization so the event will truly be a showcase for downtown businesses. In response, several business people said they will attend and have a table or booth.

Next on the agenda was a report on the recent & upcoming events and activities at Tour Temple & Corkys Wine Bar. Nnehkai Agbor told the Committee that Corkys would have 'Open Mic Night' that Wednesday, and a 'Valentine's Day Wine & Food Experience' on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 PM. She also told the group they would hold a 'Teacher Appreciation Evening' on February 24<sup>th</sup> with half-price drinks for teachers.



*Corky's Wine & Beer Bar has become a popular downtown spot for drinks and live entertainment*

## Promotion

### Committee Discusses Temple Children's Museum Fundraiser

[Continued from page 4] The next item discussed by the committee was a report on the activities at the Temple Children's Museum.

Kathryn Hermans told the Committee that the museum's February Fun Day event had already been sold out, and she added that their second annual 'Celebrity Host Dinner' would be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. She explained that the theme this year will be TV shows that we grew up with. She added that the event will be held at the CAC, and that there will be 30 tables of eight. This event is an very important source of funding for the Children's museum which is an extremely important stake holder in downtown temple. Tickets for this event can be purchased at the following web site:

<https://www.templechildrensmuseum.org/events>



Next on the agenda was discussion about the upcoming block party in front of Mo's Rail Yard Saloon. There were no representatives from the business present, but their Block Party is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> starting at noon, and according to the event organizer the event will benefit the Temple Police and Fire Departments.

The next item on the committee's agenda was a report on the opening of FoxDog that happened on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The grand opening was well attended, with around 100 attendees, despite the cold weather conditions.

The next item discussed was a report on the opening of 'Cha Community'. Devon Li, the owner of this new boba tea shop, says he will hold a soft opening of this business on First Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

The last item discussed by the committee was a comprehensive review of upcoming promotional events in February. Promotion Committee Chairman, JD McBride, directed the group's attention to the downtown promotional activity notes for February that were included in the meeting agenda packet.

## Economic Vitality

### Committee Hears of Several New Businesses Openings

The Main Street Economic Vitality Committee met on February 8th and discussed several issues. They started their meeting with a brainstorming session about prospective new businesses and about vacant buildings or shop-space to rent or buy. They noted that several new businesses were at various stages of their opening processes. FoxDog Café & Beer Garden, for example, had held its grand opening reception just a few days earlier, on February 4, and the new boba tea shop, 'Cha Community', plans to open on First Friday, March 4th. Another new business, 'The Smokehouse' barbecue restaurant plans to open in April. FoxDog is located at 209 N 7th Street, Cha Community is located at 7 N Main Street, and 'The Smokehouse' barbecue restaurant is located at 9 N Main Street. Bill Mulholland, the owner of The Smokehouse, told the committee members that he planned to collaborate with 'Black Ax' Company to provide recreational axe throwing stations within his restaurant.



## Economic Vitality

### Committee Hears Reports of Local Businesses Seeking Space

[Continued from Page 5] Economic Vitality Committee members also discussed the fact that two local businesspeople, Jordyn Rodriguez and John John Montelongo recently established a new company called 'Obscurely Wicked : Oddities and Antiques', and that they too would like to find space in downtown Temple.

In addition, local businessman, Tyler Price, told the committee that he was still working with Jack Folsom to complete his needed tenant improvements at 118 S 1st Street. He said that half of the space in the building will be used to house his wife's clothing and gift boutique store called 'Lenna Lane,' and that he was looking for someone to sub-let the other half of the store. He said he met recently with Elise Maynor of the local business 'Zelpha's Cloak' and he showed her the property. Ms. Maynor is also looking for space in downtown Temple for her business.

Mr. Price's landlord, Mr. Folsom, was also at the meeting, and he said he was making steady progress on the restoration of 118 S 1st Street. He explained that the asbestos removal at that building is now complete, and he said the roof repair is nearly complete. He also said the electric service has now been installed and that he would start the remaining restoration work as soon as possible.

Mr. Folsom also briefed the Committee on recruitment and space availability issues related to his other downtown buildings. He said he plans to move Relics Antiques from its current location at 201 S Main Street to a new location, across the street, to 202 South Main Street.

He told the Committee that he was currently looking for suitable tenants for 201 South Main Street, that will soon be vacated, and that the space could be versatile and accommodate different types of uses.

For example, he said the space could be divided into two 1500 square foot spaces and leased separately or the entire building could be leased as a whole, and he also said that the south facing patio on the side of the building could also be considered as available for lease.



*Elise Maynor would like to find a space in downtown Temple for her business: 'Zelpha's Cloak'*



*The Main Street Economic Vitality Committee meeting of February 8th*

## Economic Vitality

### Several New Businesses Are Preparing to Open Downtown

[Continued from page 6] The next person to talk to the committee was Lea Goates. She told the committee that her new downtown business, 'The Art Department & Wreck Room' will be located at 14-16 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and that it will have two sides, each 3300 sq ft. in size. She explained that the north side of the building would feature a glass roll-up door that will lead into an art gallery, and that behind the art gallery there will be art classrooms and a production space in which artists and crafts-people will be able to work on their art or teach others. She said the south side of the building would be where the smash rooms would be located. She said these rooms will be available for messy art or demolition-oriented projects or crafts.



*The future home of 'The Art Department & Wreck Room' at 14-16 S 4th Street,*

Ms. Goates said they were at a standstill on their tenant improvements, because their contractor has been out sick and unable to work on the project. But she said they have used this time to purchase and install some equipment for the production space. She said that so far, they have purchased a 3-D Printer, a pottery Kiln, sewing machines, pottery wheels, and screen printing equipment. She said she still hopes they can open their business this spring.

Next, committee members talked a bit about some other available buildings, including the old L & M Electronics Building at 217 N Main and The Main Street Hall at 12 S Main Street.

The next item discussed was a report from the owners of the new bakery and sandwich shop called, 'Weird Doughs Café & Bakery'. Amber Hinkson and Amanda Hill gave the Committee an update on the progress of the tenant improvements at their shop, located at 11 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ms. Hill said that water damage was found during the installation of the front doors that will need to be repaired before construction can continue. She also said they have purchased their vent-hood, and that it will be installed together with the electrical upgrades they are making to the building. After that, she said they will install the drywall and that they hope to open this spring.



*Weird Doughs Café & Bakery owners, Amber Hinkson, center, and Amanda Hill, right*

The next report came from new downtown business owner, Tita Charleston of Total Elegance Creations, at 15 S Main Street. She told the Committee that she would like to host some Vendor Pop-up events at her venue, and that she feels that bringing in some pop-up businesses might be a good way to showcase her new downtown businesses.

The next issue discussed by the committee was business retention. This involved a brief, open discussion about any businesses that might be struggling and how we might assist them.



## Economic Vitality

### Committee Discusses Downtown Business Expansion

[Continued from page 7]

The next issue discussed by the Economic Vitality Committee was downtown business expansion.

The committee noted that there are quite a few downtown businesses that have recently expanded, or are now planning to expand their downtown footprint. They discussed the fact that construction on the new home of Bird Creek Burger at 8 S 4th Street will start in the coming months, and that the owners of Tip Top Grooming are still looking for a larger space. 'Precious Memories' also recently expanded into downtown space.

Also, it was noted that Athena and Paul Cobo of The Parlour Antiques & Oddities are looking for a second downtown space where they could stage special events. Everyone present indicated they would do what they can to help connect those who are seeking new space with the property owners that have space available.

The last item raised at the committee meeting was a suggestion from downtown business owner, Seleese Thompson. Ms. Thompson owns Precious Memories Floral and All-Year Christmas Shop, and she suggested that the committee take a tour of some of the businesses and properties that we have discussed during our meeting. Everyone agreed and Main Street Mgr. Dan Kelleher said he would make arrangements for us to do this at our next meeting.

## Design

### Committee Views Conceptual Designs Provided by TMSP

The Main Street Design Committee met on February 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed several issues. The first item on the committee agenda was a report about design service requests that had been sent to the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP), and design service reports that had been received back from TMSP in response to such requests. Main Street Mgr. Dan Kelleher told the committee that he had met with Haili Barton, the owner of Haili Barton photography at 7 W Central Avenue, and that he had collected information from her about what she would like to see in terms of upgrades and improvements to the front façade of her business. He said he had incorporated Ms. Barton's requests into a design service application form and that typically the TMSP design service office can turn these requests around within 2-4 months.

Kelleher also shared two design service reports that we had received this month from TMSP. The first of these was a design service report that had been requested by St. Vincent De Paul. The applicant had requested assistance with new signage. The report not only shows several signage ideas but it also offered an updated color palette for the buildings. The second design service report received was for a 3-story train viewing tower near the Moody Depot. David Douglas explained that there is a lot of activity in this area, and that most of it is directly or indirectly train-related. He also said he felt that all this train-related activity and the proximity of his proposed tower to the Railroad & Heritage Museum made the area surrounding Santa Fe Plaza the perfect location for the viewing tower.



*A TMSP designer's vision for a possible new sign and color pallet at St. Vincent De Paul*



## Committee Receives Training on How to Report Damaged Street

[Continued from page 8] Next, Sr. Neighborhood Planner, Kelly Atkinson, gave the group an update on the downtown neighborhood planning process. She told the committee that a few days earlier, the Temple City Council had adopted the final Downtown Neighborhood Plan, and that she and other members of the neighborhood planning team had incorporated all the concerns that had been raised by the Design Committee into the Plan – recommendations such as the need for more public restrooms, better public lighting, reduced downtown traffic speeds, and the need to clean-up downtown alleyways. Then she showed the Committee a public information video on the completed Downtown Neighborhood Plan. The video lasted about 20 minutes and it provided a very thorough outline of the issues that were addressed in the Plan.



*The Main Street Design Committee meeting of February 9, 2022*

Next, City of Temple Communications Coordinator, Sennett Farias, gave the Committee a quick tutorial on how to use the Oncor web site to report a streetlight outage, and also how to determine if a streetlight is maintained by Oncor or the City of Temple. First, she explained that the web site for reporting Oncor street light outages is: <https://www.oncorstreetlight.com/>. Ms. Farias then demonstrated for the committee how the Oncor streetlight outage reporting page displays yellow dots representing street lights that Oncor will repair, and blue dots representing street lights that The City of Temple will repair. She then showed how to report outages and request repairs to Oncor street lights on this web site, and she stressed that it is very important for people who report such outages to include their contact information because, she said, Oncor will contact them if there are any problems regarding the request or they need additional information.

Next, Ms. Farias showed the Committee how to use the Track Temple website for reporting street light outages for lights that are maintained by the City of Temple. First she explained to committee members that they can either download the 'Track Temple' app on their mobile devices or they can navigate to the Track Temple web page for reporting out streetlights: [https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client\\_id=1000152](https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000152). She explained that from this web page, anyone can request that the City replace or repair a City-maintained street light.

Next, Ms. Farias gave the Committee a brief tutorial on where to look for information about downtown construction updates. She said the 'Let's Talk Temple' web-page is designed to help keep residents informed about many of the topics they ask about most, and that one of the pages on 'Let's Talk Temple' provides updates on important downtown projects. She said that this page can be found at: [https://www.templetx.gov/community/downtown\\_projects/downtownprojects.php](https://www.templetx.gov/community/downtown_projects/downtownprojects.php), and that the page will be updated periodically with current information about street closures and downtown construction project information.

## Design

### 'Librarian' Teresa Stockton Reports on the Temple Tool Library

[Continued from page 9] The next item on the committee agenda was a report about the 'Temple Tool Library' given by Transform Temple Administrative Assistant and tool-library librarian, Teresa Stockton. Ms. Stockton told the group that the Tool Library provides City of Temple residents with all sorts of lawn care and home repair tool resources. She explained that the library was established in 2017 and that it currently offers over 630 tools that can be checked out to anyone with a library card from the Temple Public Library. Ms. Stockton told the Committee that any resident can register and get more details at [templetx.gov/toollibrary](http://templetx.gov/toollibrary).



*People can check out tools from the Temple Tool Library with a library card from the Temple Public Library*

The next issue discussed was a report on a new art train that was to be installed at the Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum. Main Street Manager Dan Kelleher told the Committee that local artist Miranda Maloy had painted an art train for the Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum and that the unveiling was scheduled for Friday, February 11th at 3:30 PM. Mr. Kelleher also told the Committee that there are still two train

'blanks' available for future artists to decorate, and he explained that anyone interested in painting an art train and placing it at their location can contact him at (206) 298-5378. He also told the group that although the Main Street Program could not afford to pay any salary to the art-train artists, they can pay for the art supplies needed for each project.

Seleese Thompson of Precious Memories Florist Shop – Downtown, said that she too plans to have an art train painted and installed at her downtown location at the corner of E Adams Ave. and N 2nd St., and that she has enlisted the services of local artist, Sue Groveunder, to paint her train.



*The new art train by Miranda Maloy is now located in front of the Santa Fe Depot*



## Main Street Program to Hold Spring Decoration Contest

[Continued from page 10] Next, the Design Committee revisited an issue that they had raised the previous month - their interest in sponsoring a spring decoration contest. Main Street Mgr. Dan Kelleher told the Committee that he had already started work on assembling a trophy for the contest, and he asked if committee members were comfortable having staff administer the Spring Decoration Contest in pretty much the same way as we have administered the Christmas Decoration Contest - and they said they were. Accordingly then, he said an announcement will be made soon encouraging downtown stake holders to decorate for spring. No registration or sign-up will be required to enter the contest, but instead, a specific date will be given when the contest judge(s) will roam around downtown Temple and judge any and all spring decorations that have been placed at downtown locations. Then an awards ceremony will be held during which the trophy will be awarded to the winner.

The next issue on the committee's agenda was a series of updates on private-sector construction and building restoration projects.

First, Architect, McKenzie Wilby, of MRB Design Group, gave the committee an update on the status of the Central Plaza building restoration project at 103 E Central Avenue. She reported that the windows that had previously delayed the project had now been ordered and that work had started on the elevators.

Next, there were no representatives from Turner Behringer present to report on the progress of the restoration of the Hawn Hotel, Arcadia Theater and Sears Building, but several people present reported seeing an active construction crew on site making consistent good progress on that project.

Jack Folsom was on hand to report on the several downtown projects that are now being undertaken by his company: 'Mud City Enterprises'. He reported that he expected the awning on the west side of PJ's Tabletop, at 10 W Ave B, to be installed soon, and he also reported that his work on improvements to his building at 118 S 1st Street were moving forward. He said he was moving forward on the roof repair on the building, and that he is working on getting his building permits for other parts of his building restoration project. He also said he had completed the asbestos abatement work on the building. He told committee members that he has found a tenant, Tyler Price, who is the owner of 'We Give a Flip' real estate investment company, who plans to lease the entire building. He explained further that Price intends to use half the building for his wife's clothing boutique and gift shop called, 'Lenna Lane', and that Price is exploring other uses for the other side of the building.

Folsom then told the Committee that he planned to move Relics Antiques from its current home at 201 S Main Street to a new location, across the street, to 202 S Main Street. He explained that he now owns both of those buildings and that he will now work to find a good new tenant for the building being vacated by Relics Antiques.

Next, Mr. Kelleher told the group that he had spoken on the phone to Ms. Sylvia Copenhaver. He said she is the owner of 114 S 1st Street, which is the building located between Treno Pizzeria and Mexiko Café. He said that Ms. Copenhaver had told him she had noticed the positive new developments on S 1st Street and that she was interested in possibly restoring her building as well. She said she is interested in the TMSP free design assistance program and applying for a SIZ Grant as well. Kelleher said he would follow-up on this issue with Ms. Copenhaver.



114 S 1st Street

# Design

## Committee Hears Progress Reports on Downtown Building Restorations

[Continued from page 11] Next, Chairman Patrick Guillen told the Committee that he is working with his engineers on a revised design for the rooftop patio for his City Eats Food Hall project at 106-108 N Main Street. He said that this design work was nearly completed and that then the second phase of construction should begin in about six weeks.

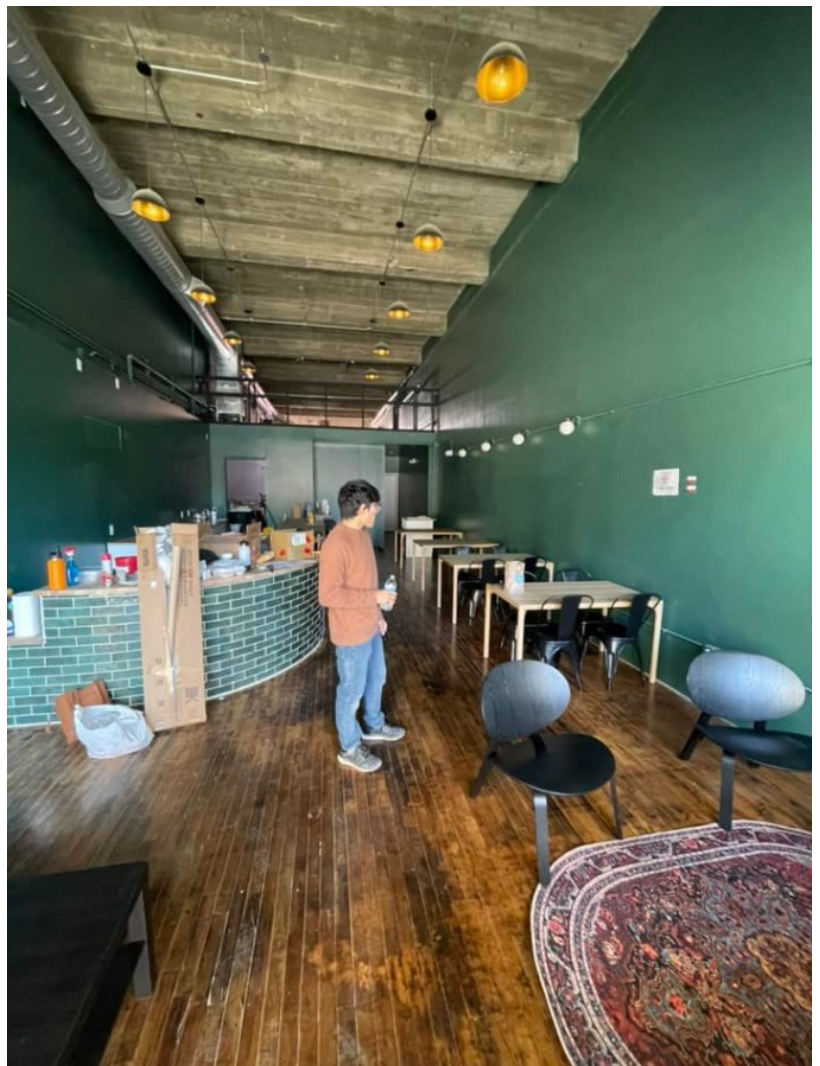
Next, Mr. Kelleher gave a brief update on the tenant improvements for the 'Art Department & Wreck Room' at 14-16 S 4th Street. He said that he had spoken recently with the business owners, Lea and Brent Goates, and that they had told him that they had been delayed by their contractor, but that they still plan to be open for business this spring.

In addition, Amber Hinkson and Amanda Hall were present at the meeting, and they gave the committee a progress report on the tenant improvements at their new business, Weird Doughs Bakery & Café at 11 N 6th Street. They told the Committee that they had found water damage during the installation of the front doors, and that this will require them to make some unanticipated repairs before their improvement work can continue. They said they still hope to be open for business this spring.

Also, Mr. Kelleher reported that he had spoken with business owner, Devin Li, about the progress of his tenant improvements at his business, Cha Community at 7 N Main Street, and that Mr. Li had told him that his construction work was almost completed and that he just needs to finish the installation of his business sign and of a stove with a vent hood in order to serve his popular Chinese dumplings. Nevertheless, he plans to move forward and open for business on First Friday, March 4th.

Next, Joey Zembo of Express Employment Professionals told the Committee that work on his building restoration project at 200 W Calhoun Avenue was almost completed, but they still have an issue with their awning on the front of the building, and they hope to have it resolved soon.

The final issue on the committee agenda was discussion about possible collaboration between the Main Street Program and Temple College. Mr. Kelleher noted that Jennifer Douglas, of the Temple College Business Education Department had previously expressed an interest in finding ways that such collaboration could take place - especially if there might be a way for her students to become involved. She had a schedule conflict so she was unable to attend the committee meeting, but Mr. Kelleher said he would contact her again continue this conversation.



*Tenant improvements at Cha Community, at 7 N Main Street are almost completed, so look forward to the opening of this boba tea shop on First Friday, March 4th.*



## Organization

### Organization Committee Plans for Contests, Receptions and Tours

The Main Street Organization Committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed several issues. The first item discussed was an update on efforts to recruit new members to join in Main Street Program activities. Main Street Mgr. Dan Kelleher reported that Main Street staff did not man the First Friday community outreach booth this month because the weather was cold and all outdoor activities such as street-closure block parties were cancelled, and these outdoor venues are where we normally set up for community outreach.

Although we didn't undertake our normal recruitment activities, Mr. Kelleher told the committee that he did speak this month with a downtown property owner, Sylvia Copenhaver, who has not been active in Main Street Activities, or building restoration activities in the past. Ms. Copenhaver owns the building at 114 S 1<sup>st</sup> Street. She told him that she had noticed all the improvements taking place around her building and she said she would be interested in possibly restoring her building. She also said she was very interested in learning more about the free design assistance that is available from the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP), and in learning more about the City of Temple SIZ Grant Program.

The next issue discussed by the committee was a status report on the 2021 historic building photo contest and the 2022 historic building photo contest and painting contest. Mr. Kelleher reported that he had collected the 2021 photo exhibit from the Bell County Museum, which was the last museum scheduled to display it. He said that now the owners of the photos will be contacted about picking up their work. He also let the Committee know that he has not yet received any entries for the 2022 photo contest – but he added that this is not unusual as most entries come later and closer to the submission deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Susan Sterle talked about the new contest we are adding to our Preservation Month activities this year: a historic buildings painting contest. She added that let she had posted the contest on her Facebook pages and asked everyone to please share. Also, she said she would be hosting a gathering of the Outdoor Painters Association on February 18-19, and that she would invite them to paint some of our historic buildings and then enter the paintings in the contest. Later, about a week after the Organization Committee met, the Outdoor Painters Association visited Temple and many painters did paint images of our historic buildings.



*On February 18 & 19, Susan Sterle and Sterle Fine Art Studio hosted a group of artists from the 'Outdoor Painters Society', who spent that weekend painting images of both natural settings and man-made structures in Temple.*

Next the committee worked on planning for the upcoming Chamber of Commerce 'Business After Hours' reception in April, that will be hosted by the Temple Main Street Program and by downtown businesses. Mr. Kelleher reported that the search for a venue for the event is continuing, and he mentioned that Rod Henry, President of the Temple Chamber of Commerce, had suggested that Santa Fe Plaza, the TISD Building, or the Railroad Museum would make a good venue for the event. The date for the reception has not yet been set, but it will likely be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next issue discussed by the committee was early preparation for the 2022 Imagine the Possibilities Tour. Kelleher reminded the group that the Imagine the Possibilities Tour is a weekday evening in May at which dozens of open house receptions are staged simultaneous so property owners can showcase their properties and ask tour guests who come to "imagine the possibilities" of what their building or shop space could be if it were restored and/or occupied with an exciting new business. He also told the Committee that three types of business owners should participate in the Imagine the Possibilities Tour. First are the owners that have a building under construction. Next are owners of buildings that have been recently restored. And lastly, any owner that has a building for sale or shop space available for lease. The most likely dates for the tour are May 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Kelleher asked those present to either participate in the tour themselves, and/or to encourage and invite other downtown property owners to participate.

## Organization

# The Temple Main Street Advisory Board

### Who we are and what we stand for:

The Temple Main Street Advisory Board is a Board that is appointed by the Temple City Council and operates under the authority of the City of Temple. Members of the Board receive staff support from the Main Street Program office of the Temple Planning and Development Department.

#### **Our Vision Statement**

The Temple Main Street Program envisions a thriving future in which downtown Temple bridges the past and future. We aspire for downtown Temple to be an attractive destination in the heart of central Texas where both locals and visitors can live, eat, work, shop and play.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

The Temple Main Street Program engages in public and private partnerships to revitalize and encourage reinvestment, enhance cultural diversity, and preserve the historic integrity of the historic Main Street District. We also strive to develop tourism and to recruit and retain businesses through the Main Street approach, in order to provide a solid economic base for Temple.

#### **Our Statement of Core Values**

##### Leadership and Transparency

The Temple Main Street Program provides leadership to bring a vision of growth and progress to the community with integrity and transparency.

##### Teamwork

The Temple Main Street Program works as a team and has a commitment to promote a common vision. We encourage downtown stake holders to work together and we support each other in everything we do.

##### Communication

The Temple Main Street Program is committed to spreading the good news about our impressive downtown revitalization throughout our community.