CITY OF DAHLONEGA
Main Street Advisory Board Downtown Walkthrough Agenda

December 01, 2026, 5:00 PM

Head House

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 706-864-6133.

Vision – Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

Vision Statement

Downtown Dahlonega will retain its role as the heart of the region and the center for community and economic development. It will have an inviting appearance, highlighted by historic architecture. It will enhance the civic, cultural, and economic vitality of the entire community.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Downtown Dahlonega is to stimulate and sustain economic development in downtown area by encouraging cooperation and building leadership; by advancing a positive image of downtown and promoting it as an exciting place to live, shop, and invest; by sustaining and improving the appearance of downtown; and by strengthening and expanding the economic base of downtown.

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Organization

a. Walking Tour of Historic District and Evaluations

   Ariel Alexander, Main Street Director

Adjourn

Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonega will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonega commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare …for ALL!

DOWNTOWN DAHLONEGA: Downtown Walkthrough Evaluation

Purpose: Evaluate the condition, functionality, accessibility, economic vitality, and overall experience of Downtown Dahlonega. Observations will help identify maintenance needs, preservation opportunities, business support needs, and potential capital improvement projects.

Evaluation Rating Scale

Rating	Description
1 – Poor	Significant deficiencies; immediate attention needed
2 – Needs Improvement	Noticeable issues requiring attention
3 – Fair	Generally functional, but improvements are needed
4 – Good	Well-maintained with minor opportunities for improvement
5 – Excellent	Well-maintained and functioning as intended
N/A	Not applicable or not observed

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1. Infrastructure & Streetscape

Evaluate the physical condition and functionality of downtown infrastructure.

- Sidewalks are in good condition and free of significant cracks, uneven surfaces, or trip hazards.
- Streets and road surfaces are adequately maintained.
- Stormwater drains and drainage systems appear functional.
- Streetlights and pedestrian lighting are operational and adequate.
- Street trees, landscaping, and planted areas are maintained.
- Benches, trash receptacles, and other public amenities are in good condition.
- Utility infrastructure (poles, wires, boxes, etc.) is orderly and maintained.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Observations / Locations Needing Attention:

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2. Historic Preservation & Building Conditions

Evaluate the preservation and appearance of downtown's historic character.

- Historic buildings appear structurally maintained.
- Building facades retain their historic architectural character.
- Storefronts, windows, doors, and architectural details are maintained.
- Signage is appropriate in scale and character for the historic district.
- Building rehabilitation and improvements are compatible with historic surroundings.
- Vacant or underutilized buildings have opportunities for rehabilitation or adaptive reuse.
- Potential deterioration, deferred maintenance, or blighted conditions are identified.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Observations / Buildings Needing Attention:

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3. Walkability & Accessibility

Evaluate how easily and safely pedestrians can navigate downtown.

- Sidewalks provide continuous pedestrian routes.
- Crosswalks are clearly marked and visible.
- Pedestrian crossings provide adequate visibility and safety.
- ADA-accessible routes and curb ramps are available and appear functional.
- Sidewalks are free of obstructions, including signs, merchandise, and other displays.
- Pedestrian connections between parking areas, businesses, and public spaces are convenient.
- Traffic speeds and vehicle activity are appropriate for a pedestrian-oriented downtown.

- Downtown is comfortable and inviting for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Observations / Safety or Accessibility Concerns:

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4. Business Activity & Economic Vitality

Evaluate the health, activity, and overall business environment of downtown.

- Businesses appear occupied and actively operating.
- Vacant storefronts or commercial spaces are identified.
- Storefront windows and entrances are attractive and maintained.
- Business hours and operating information are clearly communicated.
- A variety of retail, dining, service, and experiential businesses are represented.
- Businesses appear welcoming and accessible to pedestrians.
- Outdoor displays, merchandise, and seating contribute positively to the streetscape.
- Opportunities exist to recruit new businesses or support existing businesses.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Business Activity Observations:

Number of visibly open businesses: _____

Number of visibly closed businesses: _____

Number of vacant storefronts: _____

Potential business recruitment opportunities:

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5. Public Spaces, Cleanliness & Visitor Experience

Evaluate the overall appearance and experience of downtown.

- Streets, sidewalks, and public spaces are clean and free of litter.
- Landscaping and public spaces are attractive and maintained.

- Public gathering spaces are inviting and accessible.
- Wayfinding signage and directional information are adequate.
- Parking areas and pedestrian connections are clearly identifiable.
- Public restrooms and visitor amenities are accessible and maintained.
- Downtown provides a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors.
- Opportunities exist for additional public art, seating, landscaping, or placemaking.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Observations / Opportunities:

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6. Parking, Traffic & Safety

- Parking is accessible and adequately maintained.
- Parking signage and directional information are clear.
- Loading zones and delivery areas function effectively.
- Traffic circulation is safe and efficient.
- Pedestrian and vehicle conflicts are minimized.
- Street and public-space lighting provides a sense of safety.
- Public safety concerns or areas needing additional attention are identified.

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 N/A

Observations / Areas Needing Attention: