

Main Street Texarkana looked to its plans for 2019 as it began organizing the calendar during the March meeting.

"Our focus this year is going to be downtown beautification," said Ina McDowell, executive director. "Some tend to see us as an event-focused organization. And it is true, we are a key part of organizing events that take place in our historical downtown. But there are parts of our downtown that do need attention and our plans for this year will involve addressing those needs."

McDowell pointed out physical needs and touch-ups that require attention in the downtown area.

"Our crosswalks are going to be of a particular focus as we begin work," she said. "Texarkana's main street and downtown area should be attractive and pedestrian-friendly. So that is going to be one of our focuses."

McDowell also pointed out that lighting lining buildings, especially on the Texas-side, will be something they will work on. "We want our downtown to be attractive and feel safe to those about at night. These sorts of features will be a big help in bringing that about."

Also, the organization was looking at planters and getting grants to support that project as well as others.

"More details will come as these projects develop," McDowell said. "Also, this year's fundraising has just kicked off and we are encouraging our current and prospective members to come check us out at mainstreettexarkana.com.

Coming downtown events to look forward to soon include Rockabilly, the Regional Music Heritage Center's "Rock Comes Home" event that will feature local talent Stephanie Rice, who will receive the Young Musician Award from the center.

The RMHC played host to great local talents as well as featuring music legends like Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Reed and more. After being closed for decades, this heritage performance arena will once again be open to the public and provide a stage for performing talent and appreciative audiences. Rockabilly will take place March 30. See manstreettexarkana.com for more information.