SGA Report

1. **Create an advisory and implementation committee including the interests present at the workshop, to implement these action items.**
    a. The city has formed multiple implementation committees to carry out the goals in the comprehensive plan. Members of these committees include the City Planner, Community Development Director, Public Works, business owners, local residents, etc. A few examples of the projects worked on include design and publication of the Depot RFP (request for proposals), Wayfinding and gateway signage meetings with MDOT, and create the legal framework for a Downtown organization.
2. **Fully capture and present Natchez's story to the outside world.**
    a. The Visitor's Bureau works daily to encourage the public and owners of historic sites to adopt heritage tourism in to their rhetoric. It is becoming widely known locally of the diverse story each can tell. They are constantly setting up workshops and tours to help tell a fuller story, the good and the bad.
3. **Reinvest through downtown through implementation of the master plan.**
    a. The City has selected an occupant for the Depot on the Bluff through a successful RFP process. When this project comes to fruition, the City can use the momentum to bring much needed facilities to life, such as a public bathroom, stage and potentially a dog park. These all add to the quality of life to Natchez. Bigger infrastructure projects will require financial planning and securing state and/or federal funding.
4. **Seek new development projects to fill in the "missing teeth" while paying careful attention to building and site design.**
    a. The local non-profit, FOR Natchez, has organized multiple investor tours in the Bluff and MLK Triangle district. The goal of these tours were to showcase the properties in Downtown Natchez that could take advantage of Opportunity Zone program. FOR Natchez had a CPA on site to answer any questions investors had about the programs and local law.
5. **Create a marketing and branding campaign including ongoing place management.**
    a. The city temporarily funded a Downtown Natchez Alliance director for 6 months to accomplish attainable goals, such drafting local tax abatements, revising sign guidelines, and most importantly create a sustainable framework so the downtown organization can flourish.
6. **Focus on place making and streetscapes in the city center to make it a destination where people want to visit and linger.**
    a. We have entertained the possibility for streetscape upgrades and burying cluttering infrastructure, however astute budgeting and future planning is required.
7. **Adopt a Complete Streets policy and implementation strategy.**
    a. Have not started this process, but aware of the need. May need traffic engineer to confirm multi-modal routes, conversion of one-ways, etc.
8. **Achieve reliable, redundant communications.**
    a. Natchez is very good at establishing committees, however project follow through is a struggle. Finding a point person for every project is challenging, especially when it is always one or two of the same people.
9. **Pursue a cellular booster project.**

     a. Need to come up with feasible financing mechanism, grant, or incentive to get private/public buy in.

10. **Establish Wi-Fi internet access zones in downtown.**
     a. Need to come up with feasible financing mechanism (and security protocols), grant, or incentive to get private/public buy in

11. **Create educational programs that attract new talent and keep young people in the community.**
     a. The schools are partnering with C-Spire and other entities to bring chess programs into school. Hopefully this will open the door to more advanced programs.

12. **Engage service sector industry throughout the city as well as city employees in customer service training so they become ambassadors for Natchez.**
     a. Training the workers in the hospitality industry is a challenge because of cost and time constraints, however it may be something that the local restaurant association should promote in partnership with the City.