



Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 18th, 2019
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

Greg Shepherd, Clarence Biggs, Judy Wobbleton, Kathy Daly, Ila Parker, Brenda Holliday, John O'Daniel, Cameron Braddy, Gemma Martin, Zach Dickerson

CALL TO ORDER

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

Judy made a motion to approve the minutes, all in favor. Minutes approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report was approved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

First, regarding the CDBG projects, as Zach mentioned at our November meeting the Town Board (on October 7th) gave the three grant recipients a deadline of November 30th to give us a notice of intent for whether they are planning on moving forward with the Grant Projects. As of December, one grant recipient has pulled out of the grant. Thankfully this does not put the funds of the other grant recipients in jeopardy. It is our understanding that the other two are planning on moving forward. They're still trying to line up contractors.

Zach has in three work orders for streetlights on Main St. with Dominion. Sometimes they take a little to get around to it. Rep with Dominion explained to him that if these three bulb replacements don't help they can put in some more work orders.

We also furthered our discussion regarding the Food Truck Rodeo & Investors Night. Initially we planned on having this in April, but in our discussions we came to the conclusion that June might be better suited for this event. We decided that a Friday night would be best for this. The Fridays in June are the 5th, the 12th, the 19th and the 26th. Possibly the Friday after school lets out or the one after that, which narrows it down to the 19th and the 26th. Zach has contacted a few of the Food Trucks on the list Elizabeth sent me this week and did get a no from Villa

Verde, as they've just opened a second location in Greenville which will be their main focus now. Stephen gave information on a website that acts as a sort of agent for Food Trucks to whom we will be communicating.

The Williamston Woman's Club offered to help with the Investor's Night for the event, which is great. They offered to stand in front of each building and be the "information liaison" for that building. What we can do is compile information about each property and have a handout that details square footage, permitted uses and a "possibility" section that has a short list of what might be a good fit for that building. We looked at a large printout of downtown map detailing which buildings we think should be highlighted in the event. Gemma suggested adding on the small one-story building that's adjacent to the Tar Heel Apartment Building to the list. Just have to get permission from the property owners who have been somewhat unresponsive thus far about this sort of thing. The attachment also shows the locations of where we can stage the food trucks. The more people we can get on Main St., the better.

The next Economic Vitality Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, January 9th, at 7pm in Town Hall.

DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

The Design Subcommittee did not meet in December. Everything below, the minutes from November, are the same, with one addition at the bottom.

The Design Subcommittee will be working on seeking out new sources of funding for the Barnes Plaza Mural Project.

Miller's Sports and Trophies asked for an application for a Vibrancy Grant, so we should hopefully be seeing that come through soon. They said they probably would not begin work until the first of the year.

We are exploring options to light the small alleyway next to the Small Shop, which links Main St. and Harrison St. Zach has contacted both the downtown folks for Roanoke Rapids and Elizabeth City, who have implemented tasteful lighting in their alleyways, for information on how they went about doing this.

As a side note, the Town of Williamston's Appearance Commission, which meets in conjunction with the Design Subcommittee, needs nominees to take positions on the Commission. Zach mentioned to the group that if anyone on the WDI Board would like to nominate someone else, we can submit those nominations to the Town Board.

Dr. Ryan Nielsen of Williamston Chiropractic submitted a Vibrancy Grant Application- we were not able to review it at the December Design Subcommittee meeting as we did not meet. Zach brought this up at the WDI meeting and we determined that if the Design Subcommittee recommends it be moved forward to the Board, we will send out to the board by email and we won't have to wait for the January WDI meeting to approve the grant application.

PROMOTIONS

The Promotions subcommittee met Tuesday, November 5th.

The group decided that the date of the Chalk Festival would be Saturday, May 2nd in conjunction with the Martin County Arts Council's 5k Color Run on the same day. The Festival would start with the 5k and continue throughout the day with the Chalk Art.

Over the next several months, the Promotions Subcommittee will be planning out this Festival.

The Williamston Christmas Parade is Thursday, Dec. 5th.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

They have 20 booths set up on the second floor of the Arts Council and will be open through December 21st.

The Martin County Community Christmas Chorus was a huge success.

December 20th they have a Christmas Children's Market where everything is \$5 and under.

Starting January 9th, they are having Creative Movement Dance Class with Ashley Beaman.

They have recently started selling Mackey's Ferry Peanuts, a Martin County original product!

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

They had a Christmas Party, each attendee invited three community members as a way to get people into the building.

They are in the process of naming rooms in the building.

In January, they're partnering with the Boys and Girls Club to develop an afterschool program.

They're planning an open house soon, and making a list of programs throughout the rest of the year.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

Not present for this meeting.

WOMAN'S CLUB

Brenda stated they are willing to help with the Opportunity Spaces night.

They are planning their 2020 program.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

They sold out of Christmas ornaments this year, and are taking more orders which will arrive in January.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

Kim Shope wants to meet with WDI in January, along with other community members, to do a marketing meeting/workshop. We will do this at our January WDI meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 15th.

Our January meeting will be at Martin Community College, Rm. 14.

ADJOURNMENT

Zach Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.