



Board Meeting
Monday, November 18th, 2019
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

Ila Parker, Chase Conner, Glinda Fox, Kathy Daly, Cameron Braddy, Brenda Holliday, Gemma Martin, Zach Dickerson

CALL TO ORDER

Zach Dickerson called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM.

INVOCATION

Zach Dickerson gave the invocation.

MINUTES

We did not have a quorum present to approve the minutes, but no questions were raised and no issues heard.

FINANCIAL REPORT

We did not have a quorum present to approve the financial report, but no questions and no issues with the financial report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This group, over the next few months, is planning a Food Truck Rodeo event for next spring. Likely April. They are doing research on Food Truck Associations in Eastern North Carolina and as far away as Raleigh. This would be an event to draw folks downtown to eat.

We are planning this event in tandem with replicating an event done by Tarboro and Elizabeth City, which they called an Opportunity Spaces night. During this event, downtown building owners unlock their doors for folks to go inside their buildings and see the potential inside. During the Food Truck Rodeo, folks could get food and walk and check out buildings.

The RISE29 student interns are continuing to work on their business plan for a brewery in Williamston.

We are still working on securing contractors for the CDBG projects.

The next Economic Vitality Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, December 12th, at 7pm in Town Hall.

DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

The Design Subcommittee met Wednesday, November 6th.

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.

PROMOTIONS

The Promotions subcommittee met Tuesday, November 5th.

This group is honing in on planning for a Downtown Chalk Festival for the spring. We are working on recruiting artists from Eastern North Carolina and ECU. This is going to be our biggest challenge. Logistics in Town we have a handle on, it's just making sure we can secure the artists.

A chair of several non-profits in the ENC area approached Zach about wanting a physical space to advertise events, displays, etc. She suggested asking some of the downtown building owners who have vacant storefronts if they would be willing to let one of the non-profits use their window space for this purpose. Zach sent letters and emails to all those who fit the bill and has so far received one yes and one no.

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

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

The Christmas Market opening reception was last Thursday, 11/14. They have 20 booths set up on the second floor of the Arts Council and will be open through December.

The Members Only Art Exhibit will be up through December 14th.

December 3rd, they are offering a sea glass jewelry class.

December 6th, the Martin County Community Christmas Chorus has their concert at 7:30pm in the Martin County Auditorium.

December 10th they are offering a felting class.

December 12th they are hosting the Frankie Harrison Bluegrass Band.

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

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

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Not present for this meeting.

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 also recently went to the newly opened Call Center and saw that their kitchen was bare of any cookware, so they went out and bought supplies for the kitchen.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Their Christmas ornament sale for 2019 is the old Cypress Grill in Jamesville. They are on sale at the Courthouse as well as the Arts Council building.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

November 30th there is a Christmas Farmer's Market at the Martin County Farmer's Market building.

ADJOURNMENT

Zach Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.