



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 13th, 2019**  
**12:00 PM Red Heron Cafe**  
*Minutes*

**PRESENT**

Chuck Halsall, Brenda Holliday, Judy Wobbleton, Glinda Fox, Ila Parker, Mayor Joyce Whichard-Brown, Mary Bazemore, John O'Daniel, Cameron Braddy, Zach Dickerson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

**INVOCATION**

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Brenda Holliday made a motion to approve the minutes, Ila Parker seconded. The minutes were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

We had no income for the month of December.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Phase 2 assessment was completed Thursday 12/20/18 and reports were sent off to HUD and the Department of Commerce. We received a response just after New Years that our paperwork had been received. \*\*edit: We were at first under the impression that HUD was not part of the Federal Government shutdown, but this information was incorrect. This is all on hold pending the re-opening of the government.

The Town has been working with NFocus on the comprehensive plan update.

The Town is hosting a Historic Tax Credit Workshop to target building rehabilitation in the downtown area. All of the buildings on the 100 blocks of W and E Main St. and Washington St. are on the Historic Register and are eligible for both state and federal tax credits.

The Historic Tax Credit Workshop on January 10<sup>th</sup> had a decent turnout. Hopefully will spark some interest in downtown buildings.

**DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Design Subcommittee met the first Wednesday in January.

The Yard of the Month for January was 117 Plum St. \*\*edit: Zach has sent two letters to the residents at 117 Plum St. but has not yet received a response.

The MCAC and Zach are working together on the NC Arts Council Grant application for the Barnes Mural Plaza.

Confirming the Flower Fund monies are currently encumbered and are not available to us.

### **PROMOTIONS**

The downtown Williamston Window Display contest winners were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Vape It Up

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Martin Supply

The winner of January's Small Business Saturday was Elizabeth Brooks of Williamston. She shopped at the Red Heron Cafe.

Several of the Downtown Businesses (Sound Feet Shoes, Vape It Up, etc.) are planning a sidewalk sale for late April/early May. Per town ordinances they may use a part of the sidewalk for sales/promotions for a period of up to three days after a permit is granted.

The Arts Council is working on planning a Color Run in the late spring/early summer.

Williamston Downtown is planning a Downtown Cleanup Day also in the late spring/early summer.

### **MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

The Martin County Arts Council gave the board a schedule of events coming down the chute this year. A list of those coming up in the next couple of months:

February 8<sup>th</sup>: Opening Reception for the African American Artist Exhibit 6:30-8pm. Exhibit will continue all month.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Donna Washington, Storyteller- Martin Memorial Library 4pm, MCAC 7pm.

March 7<sup>th</sup>: Opening Reception for Jewelry Exhibit 6:30-8pm. Exhibit will continue all month.

April 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday): Opening Reception for Watercolor Traveling Exhibition

April 15<sup>th</sup>: ECSU Choir @ EJ Hayes Alumni Association

June 27<sup>th</sup>: Annual Banquet with Entertainment, Hank & Pattie Duo

The MCAC is planning a Color Run for the spring, for which they need help setting up and advertising.

The Painted Piano Project is going well! There are three in the back of the MCAC building ready to be painted. They are considering moving the one already in front of the MCAC to in front of Mike Bennett's place.

## **EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

They had a good turnout at their Christmas party.

Currently working on sending out calendar for the year.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting the Elizabeth City State University Choir.

Planning for newsletter going out on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center**

They have their 2019 Calendar of Events ready to go.

Currently working on three series, teaching beauty/barber classes as well as banking classes. This is linked in with walking people through small business training- they encourage people to register in advance for their classes.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 they will host the Millennium Kickoff.

## **WOMAN'S CLUB**

They had a successful December: raised over \$2,000!

Currently holding elections/search for new president.

## **FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE**

The 2018 ornament sale was successful!

They're looking at avenues to work on the windows.

## **TOURISM**

Martin County Tourism was not present for this meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

We had a good discussion with Chuck Halsall about linking the different "dots" in Williamston, which we have a lot of. One of our challenges is connecting those dots, and building on the assets we already have. We worked through some action plans that we will tackle as we continue working on Williamston Downtown throughout 2019. This will be a great year for us 😊

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Greg Shepherd adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.