



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 16th, 2023**  
**12:00 PM Martin County Arts Council**  
*Minutes*

**PRESENT**

Chase Conner, Ila Parker, Judy Wobbleton, Jeremiah Taylor, Glinda Fox, April Cooper, Cameron Braddy & Andrew Kuhn

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chase Conner called the meeting to order at 12:05.

**MINUTES**

Jeremiah made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Ila seconded the motion. The minutes were passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report as of 8/16/2023 showed a decrease of **-\$3,050**, the total balance equaling \$25,395.14. The following **expenses** were made:

- **-\$50** Forget Me Not Florist (SBW)
- **-\$2000** Marco Hifi (Grant)
- **-\$500** Martin Terry (SMS)
- **-\$500** Justin Edwards (SMS)

April made a motion to approve the financial report. Judy seconded the motion. The financial report was passed.

**MAJOR UPDATES**

**Disc Golf Project:**

No current updates

### **Downtown Building Updates:**

#### **108 W Main St (Committee of 100)**

The facade has been completely removed, and the plan is to reconstruct it to historically match the connected building (the enterprise). Concrete will also be poured for the first floor.

#### **122 W Main St (Baker & White)**

No Updates

### **Downtown Landscaping:**

All roots and stumps have been removed from the garden beds. New topsoil will be added in the coming weeks, and the trees and bushes will be planted soon. The estimated completion date is early September.

### **Main Street Statistics:**

Every year, Williamston Downtown Inc. is required to submit an annual statistic report to NC Commerce. This report comprises information on public and private investments, volunteer hours, and new business and job openings in the downtown district, covering the period from July 2022 to June 2023. The investment made was more than \$600,000. It covered various enhancements to the buildings/facades and the acquisition of downtown properties.

### **Riverfront Development:**

The Town is currently working on connecting the existing boardwalk to Moratoc Park, opening up even more outdoor adventure opportunities. The estimated cost for this project is \$1,010,000, but the Town has already secured funding from the state and the Recreational Trails Program grant. We received \$730,000 from the state in 2022 and \$100,000 from the grant in April 2023. Just recently, they were approved for an additional \$180,000 for a Rural Transformation grant in June of 2023 to cover the remaining cost of the project.

The boardwalk expansion contractor is working on obtaining permits to begin work. However, work cannot begin until February, due to the "Atlantic Sturgeon" using the river as a nesting ground starting late September.

### **Beyond Limits Proposal:**

Earlier this month, Andrew and Cameron attended the annual Main Street Directors Meeting, where presenters showcased certain items that could benefit other programs. One of the items presented was a Wix website template that demonstrated how our downtown website should look. Since then, Andrew has been working on a new website for Williamston Downtown. However, the picture stock needed updating for the website to be complete. To address this, Andrew contacted a local photographer named Carolina Psalms, who referred him to Beyond Limits. Beyond Limits offered drone footage of the river area and trails, at least ten

high-quality pictures for businesses, and possibly a video. The cost for the two-day "downtown picture day" was \$1750. Andrew mentioned that there would be no charge to the businesses once the pictures and videos were edited and completed. He would gain access to download them, and the businesses could use them for promotional purposes, their website, social media, or Google search.

Andrew asked the group to approve the proposal. Jeremiah motioned to approve it, Judy seconded. The Beyond Limits proposal was passed.

## **MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

Upcoming events:

- Art & Jewelry exhibit & Sale October 5th-31st
  - Opening reception – October 3rd from 6:30 - 8:00pm
- Demonstration workshop in watercolor October 12th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
  - \$30 fee, materials included
- Demonstration workshop in acrylic October 12th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
  - \$30 fee, materials included
- Opening reception annual Christmas market November 9th
  - Market will remain open through December 22nd
- MCAC County Community Christmas Chorus December 8th & 9th

## **MARTIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

April mentioned the Summer Series/music on main went well. Porky's/David Richmond is still hosting events at the stage. The next event will be September 16<sup>th</sup> with "All My Rowdy Friends," a Hank Williams Jr. tribute.

## **E.J. HAYES ALUMNI CENTER**

Not present

## **FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE**

The 2023 ornament has been selected for Griffin Farms.

## **WOMAN'S CLUB**

Closed till September

## **DISCUSSION**

Forget Me Not Florist is moving to the old skate rink building, hoping to finish moving in before the Stampede.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.