



Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 19th, 2021
12:00 PM Martin County Arts Council
Minutes

PRESENT

Gemma Martin, Judy Wobbleton, Brenda Holliday, Cameron Braddy, Chase Conner, Princess Foster, Bisa Hargett, Zach Dickerson

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Chase Conner gave the invocation.

MINUTES

We did not have a quorum for this meeting. The minutes from the April meeting were presented, no comments or corrections were noted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jeremiah was out of town for a training during this meeting, so was not present to update the group on the Financial Report. He will email out the Financial Report soon. Zach mentioned that we had two new memberships deposited during April.

MAJOR UPDATES

Downtown Benches

Zach extended a thanks to Greg Shepherd, Chase Conner, Gemma Martin, Anne Shepherd, Emily Shepherd and Keith Conner for their help in staining the benches downtown. This simple project created a significant aesthetic improvement on our Main Street.

Economic Vitality Subcommittee Update

The Economic Vitality Subcommittee rescheduled their meeting for tomorrow at the Main Street Market. Zach will update the Board after the meeting.

Community Stage Update

Chase gave an update on the Community Stage at 140 W Main St. Starting the first Friday in June, there will be events at the Stage every first Friday through November. The June event will

be the grand opening/ribbon cutting. The Martin County Ramblers will play the event. The concrete is poured for the dance floor, and bricks are in. Chase mentioned that they've built a structure for a snack spot.

The opposite Thursdays from the Main Street Market, there will be a radio DJ at the Stage hosting theme nights. The 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, there will be a Trivia Night from 5:30-6:30.

Tarheel Apartment Building Update

Zach spoke with Watsi Sutton at the last Board of Commissioners meeting, and learned that the foreclosure process has not yet been started, due to liability issues. At Attorney Sutton's recommendation, the Town should not begin the process until we know that funds for a possible demolition grant are coming down the tube. However, in the interim we have had an individual indicate interest in the property. Zach has contacted the State Historic Preservation Office to ask about how we can determine whether or not this building can be saved. Reid Thomas with the SHPO office sent Zach a list of structural engineers, which Zach will contact and explain the situation. Hoping we can get one over here to look at the building to determine whether or not the individual can move forward with a feasible rehabilitation.

Vitalink Discussion

Zach asked the group about their thoughts on last month's presentation by the Vitalink group. The general feeling was positive about the renderings of downtown. Zach talked to both the Martin County Economic Development Council and the Martin County Committee of 100 to see if this was something they would be interested in. Our thought was if they could each cover 25% of the cost and Williamston Downtown cover 50%, it would be more feasible. The Economic Development Council indicated they'd be interested in going in on it with us, but Zach still needs to follow up with the Committee of 100.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

From 5/23-5/28 they will be accepting art for the annual Fine Arts Show, which will be on exhibit from 6/4-7/8.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

Not present for this meeting.

WOMAN'S CLUB

No major updates from last month aside from their upcoming planned meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Not present for this meeting.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

- a. We talked about making another events calendar that can be distributed around Town. Cameron made one for summer/fall 2019 that included all planned events downtown. Cameron asked that anybody with events planned downtown for the remainder of 2021.
- b. Gemma and Princess discussed an update on the Community Garden. They had their first fruit and vegetable harvest the day prior to this meeting and collected over 5lbs of produce. They're looking for ways to distribute the produce, connecting with churches, blessing boxes and food banks. They are renting out co-op beds for \$5/month or \$50/year.

ADJOURNMENT

We adjourned at 12:37