



Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 19th, 2020
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

Jeremiah Taylor, Gemma Martin, Ila Parker, Clarence Biggs, Chase Conner, Judy Wobbleton, Greg Shepherd, Cameron Braddy, John O'Daniel, Zach Dickerson

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

We reviewed the minutes of July's meeting. No questions. Jeremiah motioned to approve July's minutes, Gemma seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

We decided to just strike the \$10 outstanding check for Griffin's Quick Lunch, which was a leftover from Downtown Dollars.

In the "Projects" section along the bottom of the financial report, we discussed how these line items were set aside at some point in the past for different projects that WDI planned to do. We voted to strike these items from the section below to clear them out. We will make line items for upcoming projects in the future.

As noted in a prior meeting, Zach spoke with the Finance Director of the Town regarding the ad for Small Business Saturday that the Town was paying \$75/m for a WIAM radio ad. Zach suggested this money could be better spent elsewhere, and referred back to when we discussed having a formal website for WDI. He provided costs from website builder & host Squarespace, where WDI could purchase the domain williamstondowntown.org and then pay a \$144.00 yearly fee to continue the website. Zach asked for a motion to talk to the Town's Finance Director again and ask that we stop the \$75/m for the radio ad and ask for that money to be channeled into maintaining a website. Jeremiah motioned, Gemma seconded, all in favor. Zach will give an update on the website at the next meeting. Note, that it will be September before we can spend the funds on starting a website because the check for August's ad has already been cut.

CDBG UPDATE

- a. The Patriot House will begin to lay the new floors in the building starting next week. This week they pulled building permits from the County.
- b. The deed for the Mitchell Building was signed over to the Town last Thursday, 8/13. The Town is partnering with the MidEast Commission to write a grant application for a demolition grant for the property. This grant will cover 75% of the cost of the demolition, with the Town paying for the remaining 25%. We will know the results of the grant application in late October.

NEW BUSINESSES

- A. The Cakes by Becky ribbon cutting had a huge turnout. Really excited about
- B. SS Cycle at 152 W Main St. is well underway with their renovations, and are planning to open in the fall.

PLANS FOR THE FALL

- a. The Promotions Subcommittee is hoping to plan something for the fall, possibly around the demolition of the Mitchell Building (which we could truly make an event out of). Provided we can do so safely. We will update this as we go along.

OTHER UPDATES

- a. The Barnes Plaza Mural is finished! Mike has been paid and we are waiting on the check from the Tourism Board for the remainder of funds pledged. Judy mentioned that we need to get a plaque made to recognize those who helped fund the mural. Zach will talk to Miller's Sports and Trophies about making one.
- b. Greg spoke of the Committee of 100's plans to purchase two properties downtown, starting with 108 W Main and cleaning it up to at least have a shell building for a business to move into. Eventually, they are planning on purchasing the adjacent 110 W Main and doing the same.
- c. Chase spoke of the Chamber of Commerce's project to renovate the green space at 140 W Main St, building a community stage and flower space. The project is slated to begin soon and must be done by November. They will be asking for volunteer help and donations.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

- a. They are currently hosting the photography show, which will be up through 9/11.
- b. Their next big project is the Christmas Market, which will start in mid-November.

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- a. They recently had a planning retreat to lay out goals for the next year.
- b. Currently the Boys & Girls Club is using the facility for computer classes.

- c. They raised \$3,000 through their recent spaghetti dinner.
- d. They are publishing their annual Memorial Book, which is a special edition this year. Williamston Downtown normally purchases a half page ad in the book, which is \$60. Greg entertained a motion to pay for the ad. Jeremiah motioned, Judy seconded, all in favor.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

Not present for this meeting.

WOMAN'S CLUB

Not present for this meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

No new updates since the last meeting. The ornaments should be ready by October.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

- a. John mentioned that the Police Dept renovation should be complete within 230 days (or so).
- b. The Town needs to change the lightbulb in the lamp post in the Fountain Park across from the Arts Council.
- c. We discussed getting the arch retouched, scrubbing off the rust and repainting. Both Cameron and Zach mentioned that they thought there was a contract with the original artist that she reserved rights to retouch the artwork. We haven't been able to get in touch with her in order to do so. Gemma suggested that she could do it. Cameron stated he would go back to the original paperwork and make sure that that would be okay. Zach asked Gemma if she could go over there in the next week or two and work up a quote so we could have some numbers to work with.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeremiah motioned to adjourn the meeting, Clarence seconded, meeting was adjourned at 12:58.