



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant**  
*Minutes*

**PRESENT**

Brenda Holliday, Ila Parker, Judy Wobbleton, Greg Shepherd, Jeremiah Taylor, Gemma Martin, Chase Conner, Cameron Braddy, Zach Dickerson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM

**INVOCATION**

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the February meeting were presented for corrections and approval. No corrections were needed. Jeremiah motioned for acceptance of minutes as is, Chase seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Jeremiah presented the financial report- we had two transactions, one check of \$25 to the Martin County Arts Council for Membership (as per our agreement with them for the \$100 level membership to WDI) and another for \$100 to the Committee of 100 for Membership.

Judy motioned to approve the financial report, Brenda seconded. All in favor, financial report was approved.

**MAJOR UPDATES**

**Downtown Cleanup Day**

Due to a scheduling conflict, we shifted the Downtown Cleanup Day to Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The time of meeting remains the same. We discussed the specific goals of cleaning out the flowerbeds on Main St. and Washington Street, and designating the Triangle Park area as another target. Greg opened the discussion on planting new flowers/plants in the cleaned up beds, if that is our goal down the line. Zach mentioned that he spoke with Public Works and that if we flagged particular plants/bushes for removal, Williamston Public Works would take care of the removal. We are looking forward to the event and hope to get at least ten people. Chase

mentioned that a group called F-3, a fellowship athletic group, was going to send some folks to help, and at the time of the meeting we had 5 RSVPs to the Facebook Event.

### **Economic Vitality Subcommittee Update**

The Economic Vitality Subcommittee met Thursday, 3/11. We discussed the RISE29 program, its past impacts on downtown businesses and future potential partners for the program. We also discussed business recruitment for the finished space at 108 Washington St., formerly known as the R&C. One idea tossed around was a small bookstore, as it will be next door to the Patriot House Café. We then discussed the situation with the Tarheel Apartment Building. Elizabeth Brooks suggested reaching out to the ECU School of Construction Management to see if demolition of that structure (if that's what it comes to). The next subcommittee meeting is on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **WDI Board**

As previously discussed, Greg's and Judy's terms as Board Chair and Vice Chair (respectively) were up and it was time to appoint new board members. Zach discussed with Chase and Gemma about stepping up to those positions and they both agreed. Per the by-laws of Williamston Downtown Inc., the current board members can take a vote to install the new members. Greg, Judy, Jeremiah and Brenda all voted to install Chase as Board Chair and Gemma as Vice Chair.

### **BIRG Grant Discussion**

We continued our previous discussion about the Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant. Zach mentioned that with the planned eventual renovation of 108 W Main St by the Committee of 100, the Town of Williamston would facilitate the grant for the roof repair through Williamston Downtown. This grant would need to go through the BIRG program as our current Vibrancy Grant does not cover roofs and we need to make sure our bases are covered as a 501c3. Zach will also send these guidelines to the Economic Vitality Subcommittee for their review.

### **Board Packets**

Zach asked the group if they would like to continue receiving their monthly board packets in the mail or if email worked fine for everyone. The group soundly voted in support of email.

### **108 W Main St**

Zach explained that there was an upset bid on the Committee of 100's bid on 108 W Main St. Because of the recent passing of Dan Manning, the Town Attorney, the Town has tabled any and all bids on the property until a new Town Attorney is appointed, to ensure things are handled properly.

### **Community Theatre Update**

Chase updated the group on the Community Theatre Stage, saying that they now have power, lights, and the contractor is working on finishing the inside of the stage. They are mounting speakers and stage lights over the next couple of weeks. They are planning to have events in the space the first Friday of every month with live bands, trivia, game nights, etc. Nine of eleven

garden boxes are adopted. All but two of the stage signs have been purchased, with the plaques for the garden boxes ordered this week. The bricks are ordered and the concrete dance floor is under construction. Martin Memorial Library will use the space for summer reading, and in July they're partnering with Sylvan Heights Bird Park for books and birds.

### **MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

Judy mentioned the upcoming Street Dance event on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The band Another Level will be playing from 6-9 on Washington St. Their Etsy shop is still doing well, and they are considering hosting a fine arts show in June.

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

Not present for this meeting.

### **WOMAN'S CLUB**

They're planning on meeting in June and participating in the upcoming cleanup day.

### **FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE**

Hurricane Isaias last August damaged the quilt square on the rear of the building. The Franklin County Arts Council is assisting with repair.

### **MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM**

Not present for this meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

- a. Zach mentioned his discussion with the Vitalink Group, who are potentially going to work on a digital rendering of downtown 1-3-5 years out. We could leverage this to get people energized and join our efforts. This might also be useful in speaking with potential investors.
- b. Cameron said that the Lamar group, which handles the billboard out on 17N from Washington to Williamston, which is damaged. They said that if we send them the elements we want on the billboard, they will work up a design for us.
- c. Gemma informed us about the upcoming Community Garden Cleanup on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

We adjourned at 12:45