



Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

Zach did not bring March's minutes with him. He is going to try and locate them in his office after the meeting.

Update, he did not find them

FINANCIAL REPORT

Zach also did not bring the financial report with him (sorry, I really dropped the ball!) but will email it out with updates after the meeting.

CDBG UPDATE

- a. The Patriot House is moving forward with their project and are currently under construction. The rooves of both buildings are gone and they are gutted. We were able to get a 6-month extension from the State, so their deadline for completion is Jan 1, 2021. In order to get this extension, we were required to de-obligate the funds for the other two properties.
- b. 420 S Haughton St. has officially been removed from the CDBG Grant.
- c. Regarding the Mitchell Building, 111-113 W Main, the State Historic Preservation Office made the determination that too much of the original building was gone to constitute a rehabilitation; it would be a total reconstruction. Because a stipulation of the CDBG Grant was that the buildings had to be restored to their historic standards, and since they determined that too much of the original building was gone to meet those standards, the grant no longer applied to the property. At this point, the grant was revoked by the State

and we de-obligated the funds back to the Dept. of Commerce. Given the increased scope of work and quotes to complete said work, Mr. Mitchell indicated that he would not be moving forward with a reconstruction of the building. He has also indicated interest in donating the property to the Town. The Town can get a grant through another branch of the CDBG Program to demolish the building. This grant is not available to private entities. He is presenting his proposal to the Town Board at the August Board Meeting, which will be Monday, 8/3 at 5:30pm.

NEW BUSINESSES

- A. Cakes by Becky at 118 Harrison St. is opening Monday, August 3rd! The Chamber of Commerce is doing a ribbon cutting on August 15th.
- B. SS Cycle at 152 W Main St. is well underway with their renovations, and are planning to open in the fall.
- C. We are working on helping find tenants for both the R&C side of the Patriot House project and the old shoe store.
- D. Main Street program is working on a Market Study for Williamston. Zach has followed up with Chuck Halsall, our district representative for the program, to find out the status on this.

PLANS FOR THE FALL

- a. Since we are postponing Stampede until Fall of 2021, we are considering doing something else in the Fall that will not be as large scale, but some sort of event downtown. This could be a Fall Festival combined with Food Truck Night and a movie downtown. Still in planning stages.

OTHER UPDATES

- a. The Barnes Plaza Mural is well underway!
- b. The reconstruction of the new Police Department is coming along as well

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

- a. The Flat Iron Gift Shop and Gallery is open
- b. They were considering postponing the 5k Color Run to the Fall, but are now thinking of bumping it to 2021.
- c. The Street Dance feat. Charlie is also postponed.
- d. They are going to offer classes in Quilting and Drawing, stay posted for dates soon!

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Not present for this meeting.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

They are focused on assisting small businesses with consulting, offering help with loans and PPP.

Their proposed schedule for the fall semester is going to be 2 days physically present, and 3 online.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Woman's Club plans to meet in September to discuss plans for the Tour of Homes in December.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Friends of the Courthouse has chosen their ornament for this Christmas, which will be the Oyster Bar.

They'll be selling ornaments from previous years at the Christmas in July Martin County Farmer's Market.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

- a. The Committee of 100 has been speculating about purchasing a building in downtown Williamston and fixing it up. They toured 4 properties (108, 110, 122 & 126 W Main), but have not made a decision yet.
- b. Judy suggested adding some information to the monthly newsletter, outlining pricing and benefits for membership.

ADJOURNMENT

Brenda Holliday motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:02pm.