



Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 20th, 2023
12:00 PM Martin County Arts Council
Minutes

PRESENT

April Cooper, Chase Conner, Glinda Fox, Ila Parker, Jeremiah Taylor, Jeremy Matic, Judy Wobbleton, Walter Whitfield & Andrew Kuhn

CALL TO ORDE

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

MINUTE

Jeremiah made a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Judy seconded the motion. The minutes were passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report as of 8/16/2023 showed a decrease of **-\$875**, the total balance equaling \$24,020.14 The following **expenses** were made:

- **-\$875** Beyond Limits (Deposit)

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

MAJOR UPDATES

Beyond Limits Photoshoot:

Andrew has informed that Beyond Limits will be taking pictures of downtown businesses and the riverfront on September 21st and 22nd. Once the photos have been edited, they will be added to the WDI website and shared with the participating businesses.

Carolina Country Stampede:

The Carolina Country Stampede, now in its 27th year, is happening on September 29th and 30th. This year's lineup features Ricochet, Nu Blu, and Jim Quick & Coastline, alongside

other great bands such as Joyful Noise, Vintage Cross, and Curtis Hyler. On Saturday, the Main Street Community Stage will be transformed into a kidzone, complete with the Princess Pageant, the Sylvan Heights Bird Park, and face painting.

Disc Golf Project:

No current updates

Downtown Building Updates:

108 W Main St (Committee of 100)

The facade of the building has been removed, and a new top section has been added by raising the steel beam to 8 feet. To allow pedestrians to walk through the area during the Stampede, the wall has been moved flush with the neighboring buildings, providing access to the sidewalk. After the Stampede, they will start working on the rest of the facade and begin pouring concrete for the first floor.

122 W Main St (Baker & White)

Andrew has contacted the building owner and was informed that they are currently waiting for one of their projects in South Carolina to finish. The owner hopes that the project will be completed by the end of October. Additionally, the owner has confirmed that they will complete the Cornell Hospitality Management Certificate Program for the Boutique hotel located at 122 W Main.

Downtown Landscaping:

Trees have been planted on Main Street and Washington Street. The arborist is currently working on a maintenance plan for the town, which will include watering schedules, pruning guidelines, and healthy tree growth practices.

Andrew had a meeting with an arborist to discuss the triangle. The arborist agreed to provide a quote for the work, which will include trimming and reshaping trees and bushes, as well as removing dead or dying plants, planting new perennials and annuals, and applying mulch. Once the quote is received, Andrew plans to schedule an emergency meeting to vote on the proposal. Jeremy suggested contacting the Community Garden to oversee the work.

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.

New Board Members Vote:

During a board meeting, two community members expressed their interest in joining the downtown board. April and Jeremy submitted letters to the board seeking approval, which were read aloud by Chase. After the letters were read, a vote was taken to approve the new members. April was voted in with Jeremiah and Judy motioning and seconding her approval. Jeremy was also voted in with Walter and Jeremiah motioning and seconding his approval.

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 they will have a booth at the Stampede and the Chicken Mull Festivals. The Annual Dinner for the 250th Martin County celebration will be held on March 14th.

E.J. HAYES ALUMNI CENTER

Homecoming was successful, with over 1000 attendees during the two-day event. Walter suggested a collaboration between Homecoming and the Stampede to expand their audience demographics next year

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

The 2023 ornament has been selected for Griffin Farms.

WOMAN'S CLUB

Closed till September

DISCUSSION

B-mocha Coffee Shop will have its grand opening on September 29th. Their hours will run 7 days a week 6 am-9 pm

ADJOURNMENT

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