



Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 20th, 2020
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jeremiah presented the financial report- we had two transactions, one check for \$50.00 to Cakes by Becky for placing 2nd in the Christmas Window Decorating Contest. Another for \$100 to The Small Shop on Main for placing 1st in the same contest. Our balance as of the meeting was \$17,069.33. Judy motioned for approval of the financial report, Ila seconded, all in favor. Financial report was approved.

MAJOR UPDATES

\$7,000 in Stampede Fund- Reuse Discussion

Christina Craft, the Town Clerk, brought to Zach's attention that there is \$7,000 from the Stampede Fund that will carry over as it was unused, due to the cancellation of the 2020 Stampede. This is money that the Town of Williamston gives to the Stampede Bank Account every year. Zach brought it to the WDI Board for consideration for ideas of what to do with that money that could make Stampede 2021 better. Greg mentioned that the money could be used to bring in more local bands, which could use the new community stage at 140 W Main. Zach mentioned that it could be used to add more decorations and thematic materials to Graball St. We

will continue to discuss this over the course of the year, along with suggestions from the formal Stampede Committee.

\$2,000 in Beautification Fund- Use Discussion

We also have \$2,000 in a downtown beautification fund that we need to use before June 30th. Zach brought this to the WDI Board to get ideas for how to best use this money. Greg suggested spending some to trim the shrubbery downtown, get new mulch (possibly even tear out old shrubbery and get new plants). Making aesthetic improvements to the Triangle Park is another good use of these funds. We will continue this discussion into the spring.

Williamston Downtown Board

Greg mentioned that he plans to step down as Chair of Williamston Downtown. He has served on the Board for 5 years. In the WDI By-Laws, the Executive Board is to be re-elected every 3 years. We will continue this discussion at the next board meeting.

Virtual Recruitment Night

Zach mentioned that because lunch meetings are inaccessible for some folks who work full time, WDI could have a virtual recruitment and information night on Zoom. This would allow folks who are interested in downtown to put faces to our cause. Zach asked for some members of the board to be at the meeting.

The Zoom meeting has been set for 7pm on Tuesday, Feb 9th

Tarheel Apartments Painting Project

Given the condition of the front of the Tarheel Apartment Building, there are steps we can take to improve the aesthetics. Zach brought up putting up a wood front to the building and working on a community painting project, possibly in partnership with the Arts Council. Judy suggested using one of the banners that we had made for the Stampede, which we used to cover the second floor of the Mitchell Building during Stampedes 2018 and 2019. Zach said he would measure the front of the building and if the length works, to get it put up.

Vibrancy Grant Application- Miller's Sports & Trophies

Miller's Sports & Trophies submitted an application for a Vibrancy Grant. They will be repairing their awning and replacing the lettered signage on the side of their building. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6,500, so they are requesting the full grant amount of \$2,000.

The Design Subcommittee approved this application unanimously, and so passed to WDI Board. Brenda motioned for approval of the Vibrancy Grant, Jeremiah seconded, all in favor, grant was approved.

Committee of 100 Project- 108 W Main St

Greg updated us that their lawyer, Jim Batchelor, has discovered some issues with the deed and is going to do some more research before they can transfer the deed.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Judy stated that the African American Special Exhibit will be on display 2/4-3/5. This event showcases Black artists who live or have lived in Eastern North Carolina.

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Not present for this meeting.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

Not present for this meeting.

WOMAN'S CLUB

Brenda stated that the Woman's Club will purchase a garden box for the Chamber's Community Stage Project.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Sales of the ornament were great this year. Ila wanted to extend special thanks to the Arts Council for their cooperation in helping to sell the ornaments.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

- a. John stated that the new Police Department will be completed by 5/4, as long as they don't run into any issues. Fire Dept. is ~20-30 days ahead of that.
- b. Chase gave an update on the Main St. Community Stage project. All of the garden boxes are built. Concrete blocks and front of stage are done being built, with the rest of the stage coming together over the next two weeks. They have 8 more garden boxes available, and 60 bricks left to sell. He also said that they will make a tribute sign to the old theater.
- c. Chase also mentioned that Cakes by Becky received two student interns through the Rise29 program for the semester, one from the school of accounting and the other from the school of marketing. The goal is to help them write a formal business plan and improve their marketing strategy.

ADJOURNMENT

Gemma motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ila seconded, all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 12:46.