



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 21st, 2019**  
**12:00 PM Red Heron Cafe**  
*Minutes*

**PRESENT**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION**

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

**MINUTES**

Greg Shepherd noted that a correction to the minutes from last meeting were that he was not present.

Judy Wobbleton mentioned that we need to edit why we had over 50 people come out to the 5k race, through our advertising efforts and community partnerships.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

This meeting covered the financial reports for both June and July.

In June, we had expenses totaling \$803.00: a \$50 gift card to Emily Kilbourne for her help with the alleyway mural, \$40.00 to the Red Heron for Downtown Bucks, and \$713.00 to Keisha Manson to pay out the Vibrancy Grant to Manson Mortuary.

In July, we had no expenses.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

We are looking to step up on our advertising for Small Business Saturday, and this was a topic discussed at both the Economic Vitality and Promotions Subcommittee meetings. The idea that both of them came to independently was to hang a banner at the "non-profit" crossroads across from the Shamrock Restaurant and Matthew Sessoms Jeep dealership.

Zach Dickerson and Chase Conner have been working with the RISE29 program to secure interns for Martin County and Williamston economic development. For downtown Williamston

specifically, we are looking at partnering with a student to develop a feasibility study for a brewery and/or a restaurant downtown.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Williamston's Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance permitting microbreweries and brewpubs within the Central Business District, which encompasses all of downtown. Response to this has been almost overwhelmingly positive.

A building owner on Main St. has been working on reaching out directly to breweries for someone to fill their building.

The next Economic Vitality Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### **DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Design Subcommittee met Wednesday, August 14th 2019.

We will not hear about the NC Arts Grant for Barnes Plaza Mural until the State passed the budget.

No new Vibrancy Grant applications were received.

Judy Wobbleton mentioned a natural fiber art group of which she is a member. They are based out of Washington, and they might be interested in creating some public art in Williamston, provided that we find the space for them. She said that she will talk to them about the possibility.

As a side note, the Town of Williamston's Appearance Commission, which meets in conjunction with the Design Subcommittee, needs nominees to take positions on the Commission. Zach mentioned to the group that if anyone on the WDI Board would like to nominate someone else, we can submit those nominations to the Town Board.

### **PROMOTIONS**

The Promotions subcommittee met Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

We have one more Main St. Market in 2019: 8/22.

We are continuing to make and distribute the 2019 events brochures.

We talked about partnering with ECU for some more Public Art Projects.

Partnering further with the Martin County Arts council for planning a program (maybe a competition) for photography – Williamston Past and Present. Putting something out to get people to bring in old photos of Williamston they have from growing up here or just handed down over time, and then comparison shots with how those spots look now.

We discussed holding a Logo Contest to redesign our logo. Our current logo is good, but is very similar to the Town of Williamston's logo. This would be something we could host online and give a prize to the winner.

\*\*We made a decision at the board meeting to award \$50 in cash to the winner of the logo contest.

We'll be discussing the Fall Y'all Festival in the coming month or two.

### **MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

The Arts Council has a Photography Exhibit up through August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Motown Street Dance with band Charlie! is taking place Saturday, 9/7 from 6pm to 10pm.

September 7<sup>th</sup>- Street Dance with Motown Band "Charlie"

They will be starting dance classes for ages 4-10 in September and running through November.

On 9/12, they have the opening reception for the Digital Art Exhibit, which will be up through 11/2.

### **EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Not present for this meeting.

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

Not present for this meeting.

### **WOMAN'S CLUB**

No new news.

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

They have decided that their Christmas tree ornament for 2019 is going to be the old Cypress Grill in Jamesville.

They are planning a history exhibit at the library.

Ila suggested talking to the Martin Memorial Librarian, Ann Phelps about being on the WDI board. If she cannot be on the board, suggest a delegate.

### **MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM**

Not present for this meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

Greg Shepherd mentioned that we need to revamp the membership list. We need to see who needs to renew, send out membership brochures again. And for the existing members, show business logos on the website so they get something out of it.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Zach Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.