



Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 16th, 2019
12:00 PM Red Heron Cafe
Minutes

PRESENT

Greg Shepherd, Brenda Holliday, Ila Parker, Clarence Biggs, Gemma Martin, Chase Conner, Jeremiah Taylor, Glinda Fox

CALL TO ORDER

Greg Shepherd called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

Jeremiah made a motion to approve the minutes, Brenda seconded. Minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Glinda made a motion to approve the financial report, Clarence seconded. Financial Report was approved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The biggest thing recently for economic development was the opening of The Small Shop. We are working on coordinating a ribbon cutting for them with the Chamber of Commerce. They opened during Stampede weekend from what we understand they did really well. They are primarily a home goods store offering seasonal décor. They also have a few consignment booths inside the store.

Stampede was a huge success this year. We had a huge crowd and more vendors than we had last year.

Zach is working with the Enterprise to write an article on The Small Shop and why they wanted to open a business downtown. This is part of an effort to advertise downtown Williamston as an attractive place to open a business.

Chase sent Zach information about an event Tarboro did where they advertise their vacant spaces as “opportunity spaces.” They have a whole evening where folks can go in buildings and see the potential within. Brenda mentioned that if we were to do an event like this the Woman’s Club could help be guides for the buildings by staffing stations.

The RISE29 student interns are continuing to work on their business plan for a brewery in Williamston.

We are still working on securing contractors for the CDBG projects.

The next Economic Vitality Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, November 7th, at 7pm in Town Hall.

DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

The Design Subcommittee met Wednesday, October 2nd.

The Design Subcommittee will be working on seeking out new sources of funding for the Barnes Plaza Mural Project.

No new Vibrancy Grant applications were received.

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, October 3rd.

The Small Business Saturday sign is up.

We have extended the logo design contest to Halloween to make room for students to finish their submissions.

The Promotions Subcommittee is helping plan the Fall Y'all Market, held on Tuesday, October 29th.

We are still in the discussion phase for a Chalk Festival in the Spring. Stay tuned for more details on this. In the coming months, the Promotions Subcommittee will shift to plan to the Chalk Festival.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

They are offering Creative Movement dance classes for ages 4-10 in September and running through November.

Johnny Miller is offering a Shag Class on Tuesday nights in October.

Starting in November, they will have a members only Art Show, for show and sale.

They have recently started selling Mackey's Ferry Peanuts, a Martin County original product!

EJ HAYES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Clarence expressed that he wanted extend thanks to Williamston businesses and the Town for their continued support of the EJ Hayes Alumni Association.

They also wanted to give a special thanks to Martin County Tourism Development Authority for their help with providing funds for their annual Homecoming.

They're working on their calendar for Hayes Alumni meetings.

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- Small Business Center.

Not present for this meeting.

WOMAN'S CLUB

They are making plans for their annual fundraiser.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Their Christmas ornament sale for 2019 is the old Cypress Grill in Jamesville.

MARTIN COUNTY TOURISM

Not present for this meeting.

DISCUSSION

Nothing besides prepping for the Stampede!

ADJOURNMENT

Zach Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.