



Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 17th, 2020
12:00 PM Shamrock Restaurant
Minutes

PRESENT

Brenda Holliday, Ila Parker, Judy Wobbleton, John O'Daniel, Greg Shepherd, Jeremiah Taylor, Chase Conner, Ty Clark, Zach Dickerson

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Greg Shepherd gave the invocation.

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 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 membership from the Chamber of Commerce and Jane Benson, for a total income of \$125.00. The ending balance is \$17,194.33. Judy made a motion for approval, seconded by Brenda. All in agreement, financial report was approved.

Judy mentioned that with the Chamber of Commerce's membership level of \$100, per the WDI agreement with the Martin County Arts Council, WDI will pay \$25 to MCAC for the member organization to gain membership to both. Jeremiah will cut a check for \$25 to the Arts Council, which Zach will bring to them.

MAJOR UPDATES

\$2,000 in Beautification Fund- Downtown Plants

Continuing our discussion from January, We decided on Saturday, 3/13 for the Downtown Cleanup Day. Zach asked Greg to research what kinds of plants would work well for the planter areas downtown, which is an item we could spend some of our beautification fund on. Greg stated he would do some research and let us know.

We also decided that the main goal of the 3/13 cleanup day would be to clean out the planters that line Main St. and Washington St.

Williamston Downtown Board

We discussed Chase Conner stepping up to the position of WDI Board Chair. We did not have a quorum present at this meeting, but Judy suggested we put it forth to ratification at the March meeting.

BIRG Grant

Zach handed out a sheet to the Board members about adding on a new arm to our Vibrancy Grant program. The Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant would include improvements to the interior of buildings, including electrical and HVAC. From WDI's perspective, the funds would be part of the already existing Vibrancy Grant fund that we have, but from the public's perspective it would be administered as two separate grants. The process would remain mostly the same, going first through the Design Subcommittee and then on to the WDI Board. The Board did not need to make a decision on the BIRG Grant at this time, but Zach asked the Board to take it home and to think about it.

Committee of 100 Membership

We received a membership request letter from the Martin County Committee of 100. Historically, we have done the \$100 membership level. Since we did not have a quorum present at this meeting, Zach will send out the vote electronically.

Downtown Cleanup Day- March 13th

We decided on Saturday, March 13th as the next downtown Williamston cleanup day. Previously, Greg mentioned having a solid list of tasks to complete during the cleanup day. For this cleanup day, we decided to concentrate on cleaning out and potentially replanting the planters that line Main St. and Washington St. We will meet at 9am at Barnes Plaza.

Town Billboard on 17N

John spoke to Zach prior to the meeting to let him know that it was time for the Town to replace the "Easy Living with Hometown Values" billboard that is on US 17N heading from Washington to Williamston. The current billboard was damaged. He asked if we wanted to feature downtown on the billboard, and if so, what design/content would we want to show. This does not need an immediate decision.

R&C Sign Discussion

Jason Steward contacted Zach about the R&C sign, which was sold to an auction house in Jamesville. He spoke with the owner of the auction house, who listed it at \$3,000. Jason said this is a good price for the object and condition. The sign is rusted and would require restoration, the cost of which we don't know. The most likely best place for the sign to go is in the new Community Theatre. The owner of the auction business said that if Williamston Downtown Inc. or another Williamston-associated community group were to purchase it, he would drop the price

we pay to \$2,000 with the \$1,000 as a donation to a 501c3. He also said that if we indicated a plan to purchase, he would reserve it for us. Jason suggested a community fundraiser, if 100 people each donated \$20, we could raise the funds for it. The Board did not make a decision on this during this meeting.

AARP Video- Community Stage Update

Chase updated the Board on the Community Stage project and shared an AARP video where they featured the project, all the work that has gone into it and the potential impact the project will have in the future. This video will be featured on the AARP website.

MARTIN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Judy stated that the African American Special Exhibit will be on display through March 5th. 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

They purchased a garden box for the community theater. They haven't met recently but plan to soon.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE

They are purchasing a brick for the Community Stage.

They recently added a new member, Amanda Van Staaldunen and they hope to make some big changes with fresh faces in the group.

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. ****This is unchanged****
- b. Jeremiah mentioned the major progress on the Martin County Technical and Career Center.

ADJOURNMENT

We adjourned at 12:57