

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPEMNT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 8, 2024**

Present: Members Josh Drake, Hannah Edwards, Rob Reale, Amie Owens, Tim Crabtree, Angel Martin and Guy Gooder (arrived at 5:31).

Absent: Connie Grubermann, Kevin Covell, and Matt Holland.

Others present: Nicole Bradley, HR Director/Town Clerk  
Robbie Tompa, Town Council Member  
Mia Overton, The Franklin Press  
Tracy Griffith, Board President 80's Flashback Weekend

**1. Call to Order- Town Manager Amie Owens**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of the March 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

*Member Hannah Edwards made a motion, seconded by Member Rob Reale to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.*

**3. Financial Reports- ending February 29, 2024**

Town Manager Amie Owens presented the Financial Report through the end of February 2024. She noted that the month of February 2024 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in record, \$7,764.10. Discussion was held as to why occupancy tax has been low.

Total expenses thus far \$171,181.72 leaving the balance of negative \$58,899.27 and \$165,011.39 remains in TDA Fund Balance. The reports are incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit A.

*Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Tim Crabtree to approve the financial report ending February 2024. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.*

**4. New Business**

A.) Vote on Application for Funding

Request for TDA support from 80's Flashback Weekend for funding for various events. The requested amount is \$5,000.

Town Manager Owens showed a video from Kaleb Torres, Shriner's Hospital commercial kid, who plans to attend 80's Flashback weekend.

Member Josh Drake inquired about the amount that was in the budget last year. Tracy Griffith explained that this year they anticipate the even being larger since it is their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It will all take place on Main Street and their goal is to keep people in town. There will be a concert on Friday night, a 5K and a parade during the day on Saturday and a concert Saturday night.

***Member Tim Crabtree made a motion, seconded by Member Angela Martin to approve the funding request of \$5000 for the 80's Flashback Weekend. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

B.) Vote on Application for Funding

Request for TDA support from Macon County Farmers Market Inc. The requested amount is \$2,970. This is a new event that will launch May 2024 and will operate weekly on Saturdays, May – November on Iotla Street.

Member Josh Drake thinks it's a great idea but said it does not drive tourism. Member Hannah Edwards agreed and stated people are not coming to Franklin for just produce.

***Member Angela Martin made a motion to approve the funding request of \$2,970 for the Macon County Farmers Market. The motion died for lack of second.***

***Member Guy Gooder made a motion, seconded by Member Angela Martin to approve the funding request for \$1,400 for the Macon County Farmers Market for advertising/marketing. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

C.) New Application for Consideration

Request for TDA support from the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy (BRBTC). The requested amount is \$2,000.

The BRBTC submitted an application for funding to assist with the cost of a banner and stickers for the Bartram Trail Conference on May 30- June 1 and to install a kiosk illustrating the Bartram Trail and its path through downtown. This request will be voted on at the May meeting.

5. **Items from the Board**

A.) Continuing Budget Discussion

Town Manager Owens said the RFP for Marketing/Promotional Services had been sent out. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, April 26.

Member Josh Drake discussed Eric Haggart's current photography and ideography services. Member Tim Crabtree commented that Eric also works with the TDA and the Chamber of Commerce.

Town Manger Owens shared an email she received from Bob Scott in regards to using his photographs. There was a consensus to have Town Manager Owens ask Mr. Scott for his fees.

Town Manager Owens gave an update on the Social District.

**6. Announcements**

A.) The next regular scheduled TDA meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

**7. Adjourn**

***Member Tim Crabtree made a motion, seconded by Member Josh to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

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**Connie Grubermann, Chairperson**

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**Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk**