

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPEMNT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 11, 2023**

Present: Members Angela Martin, Matt Holland, Guy Gooder, Rob Reale, Tim Crabtree, Amie Owens and Josh Drake.

Others present: Nicole Bradley, HR Director/Town Clerk  
Mia Overton, The Franklin Press  
Dan Finnerty, Macon Sense  
Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey

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

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

**2. Approval of the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Member Tim Crabtree made a motion, seconded by Member Josh Drake to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.*

**3. Financial Reports- ending October 2023**

Town Manager Amie Owens presented the Financial Report through the end of October 2023. She noted that the month of October 2023 was lower, but still above average, \$18,956.17. Total expenses thus far \$134,935.65 leaving the balance of negative \$66,660.80 and \$161,452.11 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 October 2023. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.*

**4. New Business**

A.) Vote on Requests

- 1.) Request for TDA support for Franklin Folk Heritage Association of Macon County (FHAMC). The requested amount is \$10,000.

Theresa Ramsey and Marty Greeble presented the application for funding at the November meeting. The request for funding for the *Sowing the Seeds of the Future* sculpture installation/landscaping plan for the public art site.

Member Josh Drake stated he was not opposed to the project, but \$10,000 is a lot of money for the TDA.

Member Tim Crabtree noted that \$10,000 would be 33% of the TDA festival/event budget.

Angela Martin supports the project. She stated she feels it will draw people into Town and it will be a plus for her due to her personal business.

Josh Drake agreed with Angela, but said it's not in the budget.

Town Manager Owens recused herself from the vote due to conflict of interest, the Town owns the property and will take ownership of the sculpture once it is installed.

Tim Crabtree recommended the FHAMC ask the TDC for additional funds since their budget is larger.

***Member Tim Crabtree made a motion, seconded by Member Matt Holland to approve \$5,000 to the FHAMC for the Sowing the Seeds of the Future sculpture installation/landscaping plan. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Town Manager Owens recused herself from the vote.***

- 2.) Request for TDA support from Crabtree Family Enterprises. The requested amount is \$3,800.

Tim Crabtree presented the application for funding at the November 13th meeting. The request is for \$3,800.

Guy Gooder asked about the liability of the carriage rides and the street closures. It was noted that the carriage ride folks have their own liability insurance and that Main Street, Iotla Street and Phillips Street will be closed.

***Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Guy Gooder to approve \$3,800 to Crabtree Family Enterprises as requested. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Member Tim Crabtree recused himself from the vote.***

## 5. Items from the Board

- A.) Proposed TDA Meeting Schedule for 2024

***Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Tim Crabtree approve the TDA Meeting Schedule for 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.***

- B.) Bylaws Revision

Town Manager Amie Owens handed out copies of other TDA bylaws to those who expressed interest on work on the Town of Franklin TDA bylaws revision. Town Manager Owens spoke with Graham County TDA Director, Daniel Allison and they are in the process of revising their bylaws and will send a copy once complete.

## 7. Announcements

- A.) The next regular scheduled TDA meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

8. **Adjourn**

*Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Matt Holland to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.*

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**Amie Owens, Town Manager, Acting Chairperson**

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**Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk**