

TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPEMNT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2024

Present: Chair Connie Grubberman, Members Hannah Edwards, Kevin Covell, Guy Gooder, Rob Reale, Tim Crabtree, and Amie Owens.

Others present: Nicole Bradley, HR Director/Town Clerk
Mia Overton, The Franklin Press
Darlene Asher, Macon County Transit
Natasha Sebring, Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council
Theresa Ramsey, Folk Heritage Association of Macon County/Women's History Trail
Mary Polanski, Folk Heritage Association of Macon County/Women's History Trail
Claire Suminski, Folk Heritage Association of Macon County/Women's History Trail

1. Call to Order- Chair Connie Grubermann

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

2. Approval of the December 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Member Kevin Covell made a motion, seconded by Member Hannah Edwards to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

3. Financial Reports- ending November 2023

Town Manager Amie Owens presented the Financial Report through the end of November 2023. She noted that the month of November 2023 was the highest November on record, \$16,629.19
Total expenses thus far \$143,755.65 leaving the balance of negative \$58,851.61 and \$162,150.17 remains in TDA Fund Balance. The reports are incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit A.

Member Hannah Edwards made a motion, seconded by Member Tim Crabtree to approve the financial report ending November 2023. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

4. New Business

A.) Applications for Consideration

- 1.) Request for TDA support from Macon County Transit for funding of the Appalachian Trail Shuttle Service. The requested amount is \$6,000.

Darlene Asher, Macon County Transit Director, presented this item. They offer a shuttle service for hikers 3 days a week, from March to May. They hire an additional seasonal driver for this route. Last year they gave rides to 1,079 hikers. This request will be voted on at the February meeting.

- 2.) Request for TDA support from Franklin Appalachian Trail Community Council (FATCC) for funding of the Appalachian Trail Celebration. The requested amount is \$1,700.

Natasha Sebring, FATCC/Treasurer, presented this item. The Appalachian Trail Celebration will be held from March 19 – April 22. The funds will be used to assist with advertisement, large signature board, banner across Main Street, and wrist bands. This request will be voted on at the February meeting.

- 3.) Request for TDA support from Folk Heritage Association of Macon County for funding of the Sowing the Seeds of the Future sculpture unveiling and celebration. The requested amount is \$1,500.

Theresa Ramsey, Mary Polanski, Claire Suminski presented this item. The FHAMC/Women's History Trail needs help with advertisement for the sculpture unveiling celebration at 11:00 a.m. on March 23, 2024. They would also like to involve the Downtown Merchants. This request will be voted on at the February meeting.

5. **Items from the Board**

A.) Meeting of Bylaws Subcommittee- need date/time- update in February

Members Hannah Edwards, Rob Reale, Kevin Covell, Town Manager Amie Owens and Chair Connie Grubermann will meet on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the revision of the TDA bylaws. They will report back to the TDA Board at the February meeting.

B.) Social District Update

Town Manager Amie Owens gave an update on the Downtown Social District. Town Council passed the Social District Ordinance at their January 2nd meeting. Town Manager Owens is working on getting the logo and documentation together to submit to the State of North Carolina.

C.) Discussion

Discussion was held on advertising and the cost with Local IQ.

7. **Announcements**

A.) The next regular scheduled TDA meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

8. **Adjourn**

Member Guy Gooder made a motion, seconded by Member Hannah Edwards to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Connie Grubermann, Chairperson

Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk