

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPEMNT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

Present: Chair Connie Grubermann, Members Kevin Covell, Hannah Edwards, Angel Martin, Rob Reale, and Josh Drake.

Others present: Nicole Bradley, HR Director/Town Clerk

Mia Overton, The Franklin Press

Corey McCall, Outdoor 76

Stacy Guffey

Rita Salain

Bernadette Peters

Daniel Allison

**1. Call to Order- Chair Connie Grubermann**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

**2. Approval of the August 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Member Angela Martin made a motion, seconded by Member Kevin Covell to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.*

**3. Financial Reports- ending July2023**

Chair Connie Grubermann presented the Financial Report thru the end of July 2023. She noted that July 2023 was the highest July on record, (\$20,240.73).

Total expenses thus far \$20,335.47 leaving the balance of \$244,664.53 and \$160,045.18 remains in TDA Fund Balance. The report is incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit A.

*Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Angela Martin to approve the financial report ending July 2023. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.*

**4. New Business**

A.) Voting on the following request:

- 1.) Request for TDA support for The North Carolina Trail of Tears Association (NCTOTA). The requested amount is \$3,500.

Discussion was had about the number of guide books the NCTOTA planned to print. NCTOTA Board Member, Anita Finger-Smith stated last month the plan was to print 1000 new books. Discussion was also had about what type of crowd the NCTOTA draws into Franklin.

*Member Angela Martin made a motion, seconded by Member Hannah Edwards to approve the funding of \$3,500 as requested. Motion carried by a vote of 5-1.*

- 2.) Request for TDA support for the Naturalist 25/50K from Outdoor 76. The requested amount is \$1,600.

Corey McCall, Co-owner of Outdoor 76, apologized for missing last month's meeting when his request was presented. He noted that the TDA Board has always supported his Naturalist 25/50K event. He stated that this year they plan to have the largest crowd with 120 runners registered thus far.

**Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Rob Reale to approve the funding of \$1,600 as requested. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0.**

B.) Discussion and information sharing

- Bernadette Peters, Main Street Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Sylva

Ms. Peters spoke to the TDA Board about Capital Improvement Grants the Town of Sylva/Dillsboro receives from Jackson County TDA. Their current project is the revitalization of Bridge Park in downtown Sylva. Jackson County TDA funded ½ of the project. The Town of Dillsboro requested TDA funding for their walking and bridge path. The TDA funded ¼ of that project.

- Daniel Allison, Director, Graham County TDA

Mr. Allison spoke about events in Graham County and how they market the towns in Graham County. He also discussed infrastructure projects and how you can expand projects across 2 budget years. He was asked about how much of the TDA funds to toward infrastructure and he stated 1/3 of funds could be used for infrastructure projects.

Councilman Stacy Guffey mentioned he would like to see Franklin projects enhanced with TDA funds.

**5. Items from the Board**

TDA Annual Audit Presentation by Martin Starnes will be at October 9 meeting

**6. Announcements**

A.) The next regular scheduled TDA meeting will be held on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

**7. Adjourn**

**Member Josh Drake made a motion, seconded by Member Angel Martin to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.**

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**Connie Grubermann, Chairperson**

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**Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk**