

## Graham County Travel & Tourism Regular Board Meeting

September 12, 2019

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Attending: Chairman Dale Wiggins, Vice-chairman Robin Turner, Jessica Wehr, Meredith Jenkins, Rick Davis, Mary Griffin

Absent: Billy Brown

Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 8, 2019. Rick Davis made a motion to approve the minutes. Jessica Wehr second. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

Chairman Wiggins explained to the Board that Ms. Garland was out of town on county business and would not be attending the meeting. He stated that Travel and Tourism's finances were stable, and added that if any board member wanted a copy of the financial report, they could see Jeanette and request a copy be emailed to them.

**Chairman Remarks:** Chairman Wiggins informed the board that he and Daniel have been working to revive a previous plan to construct a Graham County 100 mile mountain bike trail. This trail would be entirely within Graham County and incorporate both the Santeelah Bike Trail and some of the trails in Tsali. Work has begun on recreating the map of a 100 mile trail that David Kerr had worked on, and also on identifying potential partners and researching grant funding sources to help finance the project.

**Committee Report:** Daniel reported that the landlord had informed him of some upcoming improvements to be made to the building. The improvements will include: pressure washing, removing and replacing fencing, replacing rear door, installing rear awnings, partially paving parking lot.

In response to a question Billy Brown had asked at the last meeting about the lease on the building, Daniel explained that the lease was for 24 months, began October 1, 2018, and included a clause to renew.

Daniel then reported that he had received an email from Bob Plott, author and historian, offering to come and talk about the history of the Plott Hounds while the exhibit is up at the Travel & Tourism office. This could be paid for by the NC Humanities Council. Mary Griffin said that she would like to have him speak at the Graham County Library and Jessica Wehr remarked that this would be a good thing to have at the school. Chairman Wiggins suggested finding out how many days Mr. Plott could be in Robbinsville.

Robin Turner updated the Board on the status of the wall map. He explained that after a tremendous amount of work the committee has determined that the US Forest Service map

was the best choice for the wall. Mr. Turner made a motion to use the US Forest Service map for the wall map. Meredith Jenkins second the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

**Director's Report:** See attached sheet

Rick Davis asked if it would be possible for the accommodation owners (or at least the Board) to get an email letting them know when each property would be on face book. .

**Public Comments:** Bob Wehr talked about the Points Map and what he thinks should be on it. He also commented on the Appalachian Trail Community idea. He suggested checking with some of the trail communities to find out if this project is worthwhile. He then stated it would be a good idea to do something to promote the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the movie "Nell".

Michelle Shiplet, newly appointed Director of GREAT, was present but had no comment.

**Old Business:** Mary Griffin thanked the Board for the money to put the flowers out on the fence at the Five Points intersection. She suggested starting earlier next year so the flowers would have time to get rooted and last longer.

Ms. Griffin also asked if she could put together the Graham County calendars again. It was agreed that she would get started on the 2020 calendars. Jessica Wehr volunteered to help.

**New Business:** Chairman Wiggins commented that he would like to move the Board meetings to the first Thursday of the month. He asked for a motion to do so. Robin Turner made a motion to move the Board meetings from the second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday of the month. Jessica Wehr second the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

**Old Business:** None

Motion to **ADJOURN** was made by Jessica Wehr. Meredith Jenkins second. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

**Next Meeting October 3, 2019**

**Closed session if necessary - G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (1)(3)(5)(6) For privileged or confidential and Attorney/client, contract, personnel privilege**

