

GRAHAM COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2020 (Postponed from January 2, 2020) 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Attending: Dale Wiggins; chairman, Robin Turner; vice- chairman, Billy Brown, Rick Davis, Meredith Jenkins, Mary Griffin

Absent: Jessica Wehr

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

Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 5, 2019 regular meeting. Billy Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Robin Turner second the motion.

VOTE UNANIMOUS

Becky Garland, financial officer, was not present but she sent the financial report, which was distributed for review.

Chairman's Remarks: Chairman Wiggins stated that in the next few weeks, he and Daniel will pick up the pace on the Santeetlah Bike Trail in order to get the rebuild done as soon as possible.

He also stated that there would be a change in how requests for funding from outside organizations are handled. A new system is being developed and all budget requests will need to be turned in around April 1, 2020 for funding in the 2020/2021 Travel & Tourism budget.

Calendar Report: Mary Griffin presented 3 quotes for the printing of the 2020 Travel & Tourism calendar: Macon County Printing, Prints Plus in Hayesville, and Hendrick's Business Solutions. Mary commented that she worked with Prints Plus last year and she liked them. They can have the calendars ready in 10-12 days after they receive it. The cost will be \$5.00 per calendar with a \$15.00 set up fee. (Ms. Griffin will try to get the \$15.00 set up fee waived)

Rick Davis made a motion to go with Prints Plus. Billy Brown second the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

Committee Report: Welcome Center/Office: Robin Turner said that he and Daniel are working with the landlord to find out what, if any improvements to the building they are going to make. He explained that knowing this will help determine what we might do as far as with facade improvements, signage on the building, and a parking lot monument sign. The committee will report back their findings before recommending any more spending on these items.

Director's Report: see attached sheet

Daniel welcomed Kathy Wilson back after her hip surgery. Kathy thanked the Board for giving her the time off.

Chairman Wiggins commented that the points map is up and running and can be downloaded for use.

GREAT UPDATE & REQUEST: Michelle Shiplett, Executive Director of GREAT, requested \$2000 from Graham County Travel & Tourism. The money would be used to help fund the building of a walkway leading to the mural celebrating the Beloved Women of the Cherokee Indians. This mural is being put on the VFW building on Main Street. The total cost of the project is \$6500, which includes a 10x30 foot observation deck, (walkway) and an interactive information kiosk. Ms. Shiplett added that RTA is donating \$3000 and GREAT has pledged \$1500. After much discussion about the project, Billy Brown made a motion to give them the \$2000. Robin Turner second the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

Rick Davis recused himself from voting because he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the GREAT organization.

Public Comment: Rick Rebout, Dragon's Lair vacation rental, introduced himself and commented that he likes the Visitor Center office very much. He has had Dragon's Lair for 7 years and it stays booked most of the time. He thanked the Board for their work.

New Business: Mary Griffin addressed the Board about a tourism activity that Jekyll Island, Ga. conducts during the winter. She suggested we consider conducting a similar activity. After some discussion, Chairman Wiggins asked Ms. Griffin to get more information and to develop a plan, making sure that this plan will get people to stay overnight in Graham County. Ms. Griffin can follow up with the Board in February.

Chairman Wiggins asked if there was anything else and a motion to Adjourn.

Billy Brown made a motion to **ADJOURN**. Robin Turner second the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS**

Next meeting February 6, 2020

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