

GRAHAM COUNTY TRAVEL & TOURISM REGULAR BOARD MEETING

APRIL 1, 2021

4:00 P.M. – 5:40 P.M.

The meeting was held in the Graham County Community Building, 196 Knight Street, Robbinsville, NC 28771

Present: Chairman Dale Wiggins, Vice-chairman Robin Turner, Billy Brown, Valerie Frapp, Meredith Jenkins, Patricia Cable

Absent: Rick Davis

Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and introduced the new Board member, Patricia Cable

Chairman Wiggins asked if there were any questions about the March 4, 2021 Regular meeting minutes and called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Billy Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Valerie Frapp second the motion. Vote Unanimous

John Colwell, representing REVVEDUP, addressed the Board. He began by giving a brief history of REVVEDUP and an explanation of its mission to revitalize Main Street Robbinsville. Referencing the 2012 "Re-Imagining Robbinsville Study," he presented the Board his MAMA, (Music and Art Mutual Agreement), project. He explained that this project includes 2 murals to be painted on buildings on Main Street, Robbinsville and a Mountain Music Festival that includes a car and motorcycle show and the dedication of the murals. He stated that there are two murals to be painted. One is a Ronnie Milsap mural to be painted on the side of the Agricultural Extension office building. The other mural, a mountain scene, is to be painted on the back side of the back wall of the Lovelace building. In conclusion he then asked the Board for \$10,000 to help fund the project.

After Mr. Colwell concluded, Chairman Wiggins explained to him that the Board would discuss this matter at a later time.

Financial Report: Becky Garland, finance officer, gave the financial report and the budget update. The Total Cash Available for Expenditures is \$496,215.46. Capital Reserve has \$89,142.29 and 46.60% of the budget has been expended.

Ms. Garland presented the Board with Budget Amendment #4 FYE 6-30-21 for \$99,750 which included monies for Advertising, Festivals and Events, Fireworks, Fishing and Outdoor Sports Promotion, Trails Project and Visitor Center. This Amendment had been approved previously and needed to be signed by the Board.

Chairman's Remarks:

Chairman Wiggins gave an update on The Santeetlah Lake Trail. There has been 3 miles of the road graded and hundreds of danger trees cut. Weather permitting, the rest of the grading will be finished in the next week or two.

Committee Report: Welcome Center/Office:

Robin Turner reported that the committee is working on a signed lease with the property owners.

Director's Report:

Daniel Allison

After Mr. Allison concluded his report, he asked the Board to favorably consider Fontana Village Resorts' request for \$5,000 to help fund their 4th of July fireworks show. Billy Brown made a motion to give the \$5,000 to Fontana Village Resort. Robin Turner second the motion. Vote Unanimous

Chairman Wiggins then explained to the Board that the Graham County 150th Anniversary meetings were open for anyone to attend and the committee welcomed any comments or ideas for the celebration.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments

New Business:

The Board engaged in a discussion about helping promote the Fading Voices Festival and the Trail of Tears Walk. This discussion ended with Chairman Wiggins suggesting that this effort should begin by meeting with Roger Smoker and also meeting with the Trail of Tears committee.

The Board then discussed the REVVEDUP mural project.

There was consensus about the value of having murals painted on older buildings, and that these murals should tell a story-specifically a Graham County story. This discussion concluded with Mr. Allison being directed to meet with Mr. Colwell to discuss the Board's thoughts and concerns about the mural project. Chairman Wiggins also directed Mr. Allison to begin planning a mural for the Visitor Center wall and finding a local artist to paint it

Old Business:

There was no old business

Adjourn:

Chairman Wiggins asked for a motion to adjourn. Billy Brown made the motion. Robin Turner second. Vote Unanimous

Adjourn at 5:40 PM

Next regular meeting May 6, 2021