

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 9, 2022**

Present: Chair Connie Grubermann, Members Donnie Bishop, Tim Crabtree, Josh Drake, Cheryl Pullium, and Amie Owens

Absent: Members Matt Holland, Candy Presley

Others present: Mia Overton, The Franklin Press  
Ali Stamey, Town of Franklin  
Teresa Ramsey – Folk Heritage Association  
Anne Hyder – Folk Heritage Association

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

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

**2. Approval of the April 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

*Member Cheryl Pullium made a motion, seconded by Member Donnie Bishop to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.*

**3. Financial Reports through February 28, 2022**

Town Manager Amie Owens presented the financial report through March 31, 2022. The report is incorporated into these minutes as Exhibit A upon filing.

*Member Cheryl Pullium made a motion, seconded by Member Donnie Bishop to approve the financial reports through March 31, 2022, as presented. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.*

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Finance/Budget Chair Report – None
- B. Policy and Rules of Procedure Chair – None
- C. Application Review Chair Report – Amie Owens, Town Manager
  - 1. Folk Heritage Association of Macon County

**5. New Business**

**A. Folk Heritage Association of Macon County**

Teresa Ramsey and Anne Hyder, representing the Folk Heritage Association of Macon County, presented information for their application for funding for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival tentatively to be held on August 20, 2022. The event will be held at the Cowee School Arts and Heritage Center. The event had to be postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

Ms. Ramsey highlighted that there were individuals from 24 states represented in 2019; demonstrations were provided where artisans could discuss their crafts and explain their cultural

importance and would be part of the festival this year. This festival is staffed by volunteers and the plan is to advertise both inside and outside of North Carolina.

Chair Connie Grubermann thanked Ms. Ramsey and Ms. Hyder for their presentation and indicated that the group would make a decision at the next regular meeting.

#### **B. Consideration of Streets of Franklin Application for funding**

A request was received from the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association (SFHA) for consideration for funding for the Hometown Heritage Festival in July 2022. Ms. Brooke Reale provided information to the group at the April 11, 2022 meeting.

From the last meeting, Ms. Owens was tasked with looking at the previous SFHA submissions and any data that could be found from the 2019 festival. Ms. Owens included a memo with the TDA packet indicating the number of visitors, locations where visitors were from and the previous funding provided by the TDA. \*Members did not have full printed copies of the packet as the information was copied single sided rather than double sided, but had been provided the information correctly in electronic format prior to the meeting.

There was a question as to what amount was being requested from the TDA for this event. There was a different dollar amount noted on the budget than the request. Ms. Owens indicated that she had been in the last SFHA meeting and it was conveyed to the group that the request was for \$2,000.

***Member Donnie Bishop made a motion, seconded by Member Amie Owens to approve a \$2,000 contribution to the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association for their Hometown Heritage Festival in July 2022. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.***

#### **C. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget Recommendation**

Ms. Owens indicated that the TDA fund numbers had been included in the proposed Town Budget as \$140,000 which it had been for the past few years. There is potential to have the Town Council to reallocate some funds after the beginning of the new fiscal year in order to accommodate new projects.

Discussion was held related to potentially doing new video via Backlot Cinema, hiring a professional photographer for new pictures on the website, change in website theming, installation of a downtown web cam, and utilizing more social media options.

***Member Cheryl Pullium made a motion, seconded by Member Donnie Bishop to approve the proposed TDA budget as \$140,000 with the option to request additional funds after July 1, 2022. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.***

#### **6. Items from the Board**

There were no items for discussion.

7. **Announcements**

A. The next regularly scheduled TDA meeting will be on Monday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Boardroom.

8. **Adjourn**

Member Amie Owens left the meeting at 5:57 p.m. prior to the adjournment.

***Member Tim Crabtree made a motion, seconded by Member Josh Drake to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0.***

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Connie Grubermann, Chairperson

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Amie Owens, Town Manager/acting Town Clerk