

Tourism Development Authority
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2016
1117 East King Street
Edenton, NC 27932

Present: Keith Nixon, Adele Jones, Ben Speller, Susan Beckwith and Diane Pariseau

Katrina Barnes, Theresa Thesier, John Dowd and Frank Jones were absent.

Ex-Officio Members present were Nancy Nicholls, Kevin Howard, Susanne Stallings and Anne-Marie Knighton

Win Dale and Bob Hopkins were also present.

Chairman Keith Nixon called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Nixon asked if there was any objection to the agenda, (there was none).

Mr. Speller then moved to approve the agenda approved as presented. Ms. Pariseau seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Public Comment

Chairman Nixon opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Nixon presented the January 19, 2016 and February 23, 2016 minutes.

Mr. Speller then moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Beckwith seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Financial Report

Mr. Howard reviewed the financial report noting revenues and expenditures appear to be within budget.

Proposed FY 2016-17 Budget

Ms. Nicholls and Mr. Howard presented the TDA Board with the proposed budget with revenues and expenditures being \$154,042.56. He noted the Full Board will hold a public hearing on the budget at the June 28, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Speller moved to schedule the public hearing for June 28, 2016. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

FY 2015-16 Audit

Mr. Howard presented the Board with the proposed audit contract for the TDA with Martin Starnes and Associates. He noted the price is the same as the current year.

Ms. Beckwith moved to approve the contract as presented. Ms. Pariseau seconded the motion. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Hospitality Report

Ms. Pariseau said it has been busy.

Ms. Beckwith shared upcoming event information with the Board.

Media Committee Report

Ms. Nicholls reviewed the upcoming media partnerships and ads. She stated that the current ads are getting hits and the committee feels these ads are worthwhile. She stated that there are billboards on Highway 64 and the committee would like to continue with a slight decrease in the expense. She stated they may have to remove the billboard in October after the busy tourist season. She stated the OBX magazine and the billboards have given Edenton good exposure.

Chairman Nixon suggested in looking into a coupon for Friday visitors who want to come to Edenton a night early before heading to the outer banks week long vacation.

Commission Building Update

Ms. Knighton stated the Town Council voted to deny the proposals for the building and also to not sell the building. She stated that a list of questions has been prepared and an RFP to lease the property has been prepared. She stated there is public support to reconsider the brewery and Council is awaiting answers to their questions about the property.

Tourism Day

Nancy noted that Tourism Day is May 3rd and access to the sites and trolley tours will be free on that date.

Historic Edenton State Historic Site

Mr. Hopkins provided an update on the activities and visitation numbers. He noted upcoming activities include decking replacement at the light house, Secretary visit in August and Supreme Court here in November.

Directors Report

Ms. Nicholls provided the directors report. She noted she would provide an email summary on Cycle NC after the event.

Timely and Important Matters

Parsonage Inn

The Board discussed complaints received from visitors who booked with the Parsonage Inn.

Ms. Knighton noted that Town has provided this information to the District Attorney's Office.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Ms. Beckwith moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Speller seconded the motion. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).