

Tourism Development Authority
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
1117 East King Street
Edenton, NC 27932

Present: Diane Pariseau, Katrina Barnes, Adele Jones, Theresa Thesier, Susan Beckwith (came in after the approval of the agenda), John Dowd and Ben Speller

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

Jessica Ebeling was also present.

Vice Chairman Ben Speller called the meeting to order.

Absent: Keith Nixon and Frank Jones

Approval of the Agenda

He asked if there was any objection to the agenda, (there was none) he then declared the agenda approved as presented.

Public Comment

Vice Chairman Speller opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2015 as presented. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Speller asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Beckwith joined the meeting.

Financial Report

Finance Officer Willie Carawan provided the financial report. He provided a revenue and expense report for FY 2015. He noted that revenues currently exceed expenditures by \$72,163.

Vacation Rentals

Mr. Howard stated that he is waiting on an opinion from the attorney however he is of the impression it is a local decision how vacation rentals are handled by the TDA.

Ms. Pariseau stated that in Dare County the vacation rentals are required to prove they are paying occupancy tax, she stated that the check the County receives from Air BnB is in a lump sum.

Mr. Howard stated that currently the Chowan County TDA has not listed properties that have not proved they are paying the occupancy tax.

Ms. Beckwith stated that she felt this should be handled on a case by case basis. She stated that Home Away has been purchased by Expedia.

Ms. Thesier asked about permitting.

Ms. Knighton stated that the Town attorney is looking into the permitting. She stated that without a change in legislation, Towns may not be given the authority to impose a fee or require licensing for vacation rentals.

Mr. Howard noted that North Carolina law limits authority on the matter. He stated he hoped to have more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Nicholls noted the Board members have been provided copies of the legislation that governs the authority of the TDA.

Cycle NC

Ms. Nichols shared a handout with the group on the upcoming Cycle NC visit and shared a picture of the Cycle NC shirt that features the Barker House and the Lighthouse.

Presentation

Ms. Nicholls presented Willie Mack Carawan with a plant and thanked him for his work with the TDA. Mr. Carawan will be taking a job as the County Manager for Washington County in January of 2016.

Beaufort Jail Visit

Ms. Nicholls provided the Group with a PowerPoint of a visit recently by the County Manager, Kevin Howard, Bob Quinn, Nancy Nicholls, Jerry Climer and Keith Nixon to the lighthouse in Beaufort. Mr. Howard noted that recent conversations have led the County to conclude that the State (Visitor's Center) will show the County's historic jail and provide interpretations but will not locate funds to fix or repair the building. He stated the County will have to locate monies to make some minor renovations to the jail. He stated that based on the conditions of the Beaufort jail, very minimal changes would need to be made (to include some paint and possibly the removal of some cells). HE stated that SAGA plans to also renovate the jailer's house during the renovations of the Hotel.

Media Committee Report

Ms. Barnes reported that the committee has working on several co-op ads in preparation for the Christmas Tour.

Ms. Nicholls shared copies of the November and December ads with the Board.

Ms. Barnes stated the group will meet in January to work on coverage of upcoming events.

Wounded Warrior Fishing Tournament

Ms. Knighton stated the Town has been contacted by the American Legion as the Legion is planning to host a Wounded Warrior Fishing Tournament in Edenton. She stated she attended a

powerful presentation on the project. She stated that the organizers are looking for volunteers to serve breakfast and box lunches and 50 boaters are needed. She stated that they expect many to spend the night before at hotels in Town. She stated this will draw much social media attention.

Directors Report

Ms. Nicholls provided the directors report a copy is in the meeting file labeled December 1, 2015.

Timely and Important Matters

Ms. Nicholls noted that it is time to make nominations for the Snooky Bond Award for the Chamber Banquet.

Vice Chairman Speller opened the floor for nominations.

Ms. Barnes nominated Jerry Climer. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Being no further nominations Vice Chairman Speller closed the floor. Vice Chairman Speller asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Adjourn

Being no further business, Mr. Dowd moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Speller asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).