



Franklin County Tourism Development Authority

Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2012

I. **Call to Order**

Bob Sykes, chairperson, called the meeting of the Franklin County Tourism Development Authority to order at 5:06 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2012 in the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Chairperson Sykes welcomed the board members and visitors to the meeting. He thanked the board members for electing him as chairperson and Fannie Brown, TDA Liaison, for providing background information regarding the Franklin County Tourism Development Authority.

II. **TDA Grant (Time Limit – 10 minutes):**

Allen De Hart Concert Series September 28, 2012-April 13, 2013

Robert Poole, Louisburg College, presented the Allen De Hart Concert Series Grant to the TDA Board. This is the 55th year of the concert. Concert artists stay at the Days Inn and use local restaurants and other businesses. Persons are employed to assist in producing the concerts. Board member, Bobby Cooper, stated that the grant was the best that he had seen because it provided specific information. Bob Sykes asked whether the budget was lower than in previous years and Robert Poole replied that it was. He further stated that the turnout had been very good and provided economic benefits to Franklin County.

International Whistlers Convention April 17-21, 2013

Allen De Hart provided clarification of the missing information regarding the International Whistlers Convention Grant that was tabled at the previous TDA Board Meeting in September 2012. The previous IWC Board did not complete its commitment for the 2012 International Whistlers Convention. A stand alone board will be the Franklin County Historical Society with Joseph Pearce serving as chairperson and Allen De Hart serving as vice chairperson. The board has approximately 50 members that are active, honorary, or volunteer members. Chuck Murray asked how the group plans to make the convention successful this year. Allen De Hart responded that a new board will provide leadership and commitment for the 40th International Whistlers Convention. The new board has applied for a 501-c-3 federal tax exemption. TDA Board members requested copies of the IWC Board resignation letters and minutes reflecting dissolution of the board. Bobby Cooper questioned the group regarding proper banking procedures and an elected treasurer.

III. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

Chuck Murray moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 17, 2012 and Cedric Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. **TDA Grant Approval**

TDA Board members discussed each of the grants.

Chuck Murray moved to fund the 40th International Whistlers Convention Grant for \$6,000.00 and Bob Sykes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chuck Murray moved to fund the Allen De Hart Concert Series for \$5,000.00 and Mamie Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Financial Report: Chuck Murray stated that the financial report was not available for a report at this meeting.

Open Issues

The TDA Board discussed concern regarding the size of the grant funds and brainstormed ideas for providing tourism events and the development of a TDA Marketing Plan to promote Franklin County tourism.

Election of TDA Board Chairperson

Chuck Murray moved that Bobby Cooper will become the TDA Board Vice Chairperson pending approval by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Mamie Jones. Motion carried.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sykes, Chairman

Fannie W. Brown, TDA Liaison/Recorder

Persons attending the meeting: Bob Sykes, TDA Chairman, Cedric K. Jones, Sr., TDA Board, Mamie J. Jones, TDA Board, Bobby Cooper, TDA Board, Chuck Murray, TDA Board, Robert Poole, Louisburg College, Elmar Holmes, Franklin County Historical Society, James Barnard, Franklin County Historical Society, Joseph Pearce, Jr., Franklin County Historical Society, Allen De Hart, Franklin County Historical Society, and Fannie Brown, TDA Liaison.

The next TDA Grant deadline is December 31, 2012

The next TDA Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22, 201 at 5:00 p.m.