

MINUTES

NASH COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY May 7, 2009

The Nash County Tourism Development Authority met on May 7, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. at the Benvenue Country Club in Rocky Mount, N.C. Present were Robbie Davis, Chairman, and members Barbara Taylor, Marvin Johnson, George Griffin, Henry Barnes, Steve Butcher, Ernestine Neal, Peter Varney, Lydia Davis, John Thorp, Dong Jin and Lara Howlett.

Also present was Lynne Anderson, Nash County Finance Officer and Martha Lamm, Nash Tourism Director, and Bob Murphy, Nash County Manager, along with Morris Wilder, Lauren Filletaz, Debbie Julio, Kelvin Yarrell and Russell Proctor.

Chairman Davis welcomed members and guests to the meeting and invited everyone to be served from the buffet table in the dining room. New members were asked to introduce themselves.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order then asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was made by Steve Butcher to accept the minutes for the May 8, 2008 meeting, seconded by John Thorpe. The motion was duly passed.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for the 2009-10 Budget. Presentations and requests were as follows:

1. Nash County Historical Society- Stonewall Manor. Morris Wilder spoke on behalf of the Historical Society citing \$65,000 in grants for the Manor and nearly doubling their non-grant funding. He requested a continuation grant of \$25,000 through December 2009.

2. Russell Proctor spoke on behalf of Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation for the Barbecue Cook-off to be held with the Downeast Festival. It will be a two day event; there were 25 teams last year. They request a 3 year commitment of \$17,000 each year.
3. For the Visitor's Bureau (Nash Travel and Tourism), Steve Butcher requested \$488,000. This funding will support the billboard campaign in cooperation with hotels, the Rocky Mount Sports Complex, and the Southern Hospitality Assoc. marketing Nash County to other areas.
4. Requested by letter- Downeast Football Classic- \$20,000. Member Ernestine Neal indicated this is the 11th year for the Classic.
5. Also requested by letter- Tar River Orchestra and Chorus- \$20,000.

Following presentation of requests, Chairman Davis asked Lynne Anderson to provide an overview of the Occupancy Tax discussing historic and future trends.

That presentation is attached.

The presenters were excused and the Chairman asked for discussion of the requests. Each was voted on separately.

1. Stonewall request- \$25,000. Motion made by John Thorpe, seconded by Henry Barnes. The vote was unanimous.
2. Barbecue Cook-off- \$17,000. Motion was made by Steve Butcher for one year funding and next two years addressed each year; second by Dong Jin. All voted in favor, with George Griffin voting no.
3. Nash Visitor's Bureau- \$488,000. Motion to fund as requested by Dong Jin, second by John Thorpe. All voting in favor, with Robbie Davis and George Griffin voting no.
4. Downeast Football Classic- \$20,000. Motion made by Peter Varney, second by Henry Barnes with vote being unanimous.

5. Tar River Orchestra and Chorus- \$20,000. Motion made by Henry Barnes, second by Peter Varney. All voted in favor with George Griffin voting no.

Chairman Davis then asked the Board's approval of the 2009-2010 budget incorporating the above requests. Motion made by John Thorpe, second by Steve Butcher. All voted in favor with George Griffin and Henry Barnes voting no.

In a separate action, the Board discussed a request in the current (2008-2009) budget for \$10,000 additional to the Visitor's Bureau for the Southern Hospitality Association. Motion made by Steve Butcher, seconded by Dong Jin. All voted in favor with Robbie Davis and George Griffin voting no.

Since future uncertain economically, Chairman Davis suggested a letter acknowledging the funding include language relating the possibility that future funding may not be as available as in past. Motion made by John Thorpe seconded by George Griffin. The motion was duly passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Lynne H. Anderson
Finance Director