

## **MINUTES**

### **NASH COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY May 29, 2012**

The Nash County Tourism Development Authority met on May 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Holiday Inn in Rocky Mount, N.C. Present were Robbie Davis, Chairman and members Marvin Johnson, Ernestine Neal, Peter Varney, Faye Beddingfield-Wiggs, Bill Lehnes, George Griffin, Tracy Jackson and Charlie Wells.

Also present was Lynne Hobbs, Nash County Finance Officer and Martha Lamm, Nash Tourism Director. Guests included Russell Proctor, Debbie Julio, Brenda Crocker, Jean Bailey and Dr. Jim Grey.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order then asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was made by Peter Varney to accept the minutes for the May 19, 2011 meeting, seconded by Bill Lehnes. The motion was duly passed.

Chairman Davis then called upon Finance Officer Lynne Hobbs to present the financial information. Based on requests made, the 2012-13 TDA budget would be \$749,241 using \$14,241 of fund balance. Also reported was a projected collections amount of \$745,000 through June 30. Chairman Davis thanked Tourism for hard work to get Occupancy collections up.

Chairman Davis asked for presenters to make their requests for the 2012-2013 budget. Ernestine Neal spoke for the Downeast Football Classic requesting their 15<sup>th</sup> year of funding for \$20,000, to be held Sept. 27-29. Brenda Crocker and Jean Bailey spoke for the Tar River Orchestra and Chorus requesting \$20,000 for a concert featuring Lee Greenwood on March 2, 2013. The third request was made by Russell Proctor and

Debbie Julio for an additional year's funding of \$17,000 towards the Barbecue Cookoff to be held Oct. 12-13.

The fourth request was made by Dr. Jim Grey speaking on behalf of the USA Conference Committee to hold the Spring Sports Festival in Rocky Mount. The request is for \$30,000 per year for two years as the Conference has committed to two years holding the Festival in Rocky Mount.

The fifth request is from Nash Community College to fund equipment for their Culinary Technology and Hotel and Restaurant Management programs.

Last, Faye Beddingfield-Wiggs and Martha Lamm presented the Travel Bureau's budget request of \$474,891.

Chairman Davis called for the public hearing and opened the floor for discussion. On motion by Bill Lehnes, second by Charlie Wells to provide \$20,000 funding to the Downeast Football Classic; motion passed.

Motion made by Bill Lehnes to fund the Tar River Orchestra and Chorus \$10,000, seconded by Ernestine Neal. Motion was amended by Peter Varney to fund \$15,000 seconded by Charlie Wells. Amended motion passed unanimously.

Faye Wiggs made the motion to fund the Barbecue Cookoff at \$17,000 and second was made by George Griffin. The motion passed.

Peter Varney made the motion to fund the USA Conference Committee \$30,000 for two years to host the Spring Sports Festival; second was made by Bill Lehnes.

Tracy Jackson made a motion to fund the request to Nash Community College for its Culinary Program over 2 years, \$16,000 in 2012-13 and \$16,000 in 2013-14. The second was by Charlie Wells and the motion passed.

Lastly, Peter Varney motioned to fund the Tourism Council \$474,891, second by Tracy Jackson and motion carried.

After adjusting the budget based on above approved funding totals, the total for the 2012-13 budget came to \$728,241 with \$6,759 used to balance the budget.

Chairman Davis called for a vote on the budget on motion of Bill Lehnes, second by Peter Varney to adopt the 2012-13 TDA Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

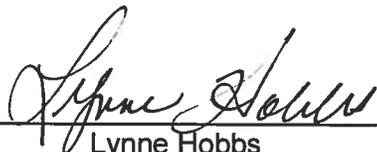
Based on TDA policy that fund balance not fall below 25% of expenditures or \$150,000, the 2012-13 budget exceeds this parameter as the current % is 54.8%.

In other business, a policy was implemented that the Tourism Council would have all budget requests to the Finance Officer by May 10 each year so that materials may be distributed to Board members prior to the budget hearing and at least 3 days before. No request would be considered by the TDA Board without proper paperwork and application.

Peter Varney asked the TDA Board to consider for the following year (2013-14) paying the utilities for lighting added to 301 Highway.

Marvin Johnson suggested the Tourism staff and Board members do all possible to help promote the positive aspects of Rocky Mount.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned on motion of Faye Wiggs, seconded by Bill Lehnes.

  
Lynne Hobbs  
Finance Director