

MINUTES

WINCHESTER FIRST BOARD

APRIL 11, 2023

Attendees:

Jennifer Wilson	Robert Blanton
Dianna Layne, Deputy City Clerk	Kitty Strode
Jon Paul Martin	Mike Flynn
Cindy Banks, Chamber of Commerce	Ben Pasley
Chardon Hisle	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, May 9, 9:00 AM, in the Training Room.

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Cindy noted that there are two ribbon cuttings this week (Pediatric Dentistry Office on the Bypass and the Elks Club) and there is a Pinwheel planting for Child Abuse Awareness at the Courthouse.

MINUTES – The minutes from the March 14th meeting were submitted. Ben made a motion to approve; Jon Paul seconded; minutes approved as printed. A draft of the February 14, 2023 minutes was submitted. With additions to the DDIF grant information, Kitty made a motion to approve. Robert seconded. Minutes were accepted with noted changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The March bank statements, and the Blue Grass Community Foundation statement were submitted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Cameron noted that it has been a busy month. Saturday, April 8th was Shop Hop. There were approximately 20 families. Hall's Coffee sold hot chocolate and coffee. Everyone had a great time. There were four Shop Hop passes turned in. Eklectic Alchemy did the photo boards. Lucky Dog was very busy.
- High Speed Collectible received their checks for the grants. Ben had a great idea to do a big check presentation for grant recipients. Cameron is having UPS get one made up. Mayor Reed mentioned that she would like to be present for these, and they will be in the newspaper. Over \$100,000 has been committed in DDIF funds for this year, representing over \$500,000 investment in our downtown.
- Farmers Market starts May 12th. May 19th is the first Rock the Block. We have discussed selling Rock the Block T-shirts as a fundraiser for Winchester First. The Chamber is the sponsor for the first Rock the Block.
- Kitty planted pansies in the boxes downtown. We went to the high school and talked to Ms. Pigg. Their inventory does not match the need we have this year. We will use them some. Someone reached out about planting some trees in front of buildings in the sidewalk area. Cameron has talked with the Planning Department, and they will be updating the ordinance about exactly what can and cannot be planted. There will be specific trees and they will require the coffins to place the trees in.
- Lucky Dog opened last month, and they have been very successful. They need kitchen help. The Seltzer building is in the process of selling. Amy's Asian Kitchen is expected to open May 4th. Cameron will give her some information about DDIF grants. There will be seating for 36. The air BnB above is finished, and they have a commercial kitchen.

- Cam received an email from Chad Walker requesting a response to his January 20, 2023 letter. He said the board was supposed to respond to his letter. Cameron will write a short, concise response to Chad.

DDIF Committee – The new DDIF Committee will consist of Robert and Ben (Winchester First Board), Meredith Guy, Danny Neely and Allison Roberts.

Halee Cunningham would like to attend a Winchester First meeting and give us an update on the foundation.

DDIF Presentations – Hall’s Coffee has applied for four grants (Retail Kickstart, New Business Stipend, Lower Story Retail and Upper Story Residential). They do have a business license as of Monday, April 10th, which will have to be renewed next month. Robert made a motion to approve the Kickstart grant. Ben seconded; grant was approved. Ben made a motion to approve the New Business Stipend Grant. Chardon seconded; grant was approved. Robert made a motion to approve the Upper Story Residential Grant. Chardon seconded; grant was approved. Jon Paul made a motion to approve the Lower Story Retail grant. Kitty seconded; grant was approved. There was a discussion about future monies that have been promised and how much will be left in the account.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws – A draft of the proposed Bylaws was passed out. Everyone was encouraged to read these and come back to May’s meeting ready to discuss, suggest changes, etc.

Beer Cheese Festival – The committee met last week. The vendor applications have been closed. There is a wait list and a late fee associated with that. The event is on June 10th.

NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Banners – We would need to order approximately 30 banners. They are 28” wide, 72” tall. Jon Paul noted that he could order these at a discounted rate of approximately \$12 each. Brian has asked that we order cloth banners as they hold up better. Jon Paul said the turnaround time is 5-7 days. Cameron will generate some designs and get some quotes.

Main Street, City Street – This will be put back on the agenda.

BOARD COMMENTS – Kitty said it is a delight to have Cameron in this position, and we are thrilled with her.

ADJOURN – Robert made a motion to adjourn; Kitty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.