

**Downtown Boone Development Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2011
9 a.m. Watauga County Library Conference Room**

Recorded Attendance:

Board Members: Andy Stallings, Greg Lovins, Dempsey Wilcox, Omer Tomlinson, Sheri Moretz

Staff: Pilar Fotta

Public: John Cooper, Bettie Bond, Dan Meyer, Rick Beasley

General Administration

Dempsey Wilcox called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

There were not enough board members in attendance to have a quorum, so the meeting proceeded with general discussion of the agenda topics without any action taken.

The Town Council has scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, May 19 to discuss moving forward with plans. Items for discussion will include by-laws, how the board will be assembled, etc. It was suggested that a lawyer in the downtown area be consulted on how these could be structured. Several names were mentioned including someone at DiSanti, Watson, and Capua or Michael Vetro.

The last meeting was on April 21 with the Council and the general consensus is that it went well.

It has been suggested that the contract be extended in order to keep moving forward with events, etc. and to get the new board in place and set priorities. As for the definition of members, it is everyone who plays the tax, who has employees, and a business. If the individual booths at the antique malls would want to be members, they can make application to the organization. The Council is concerned about proxy voting at the annual membership meeting. It is suggested that the number of proxies that may be carried by any member in attendance be limited to five.

Another concern that has been expressed is the Town of Boone using funds for normal public services like making repairs to sidewalks or regular trash pickups. In definitions this may be defined as MSD funds may be used to pay the difference above and beyond standard application.

For Board of Directors candidates for the new board, this body needs to submit 3-4 names of individuals that are willing to serve.

Budget proposals – Dempsey Wilcox will work with Pilar Fotta to set a pared down budget to give to the new board. It will keep the existing programs for the time being in order to maintain momentum.

Fotta recommends cleaning out the storage unit and the office. Perhaps there is a place where items can be stored at little or no charge. Dan Meyer offered an extra filing cabinet. She also will begin streamlining events so one person can handle them. Her suggestions included dropping the first three months of the year for Art Crawl and considering not starting the event until May.

A Parking Update Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17. The Council will be discussing the possibility of changing Saturday enforcement to 1 hour from 2 hours and changing the pay lots to pay for the day to allow them to be used for game parking.

Fotta suggests working with the Yosef Club and the clubs from other schools to help inform fans on where they can park without penalty as well as what they can see and do in the downtown area.

It was the general consensus of all those in attendance that parking should remain as it is and that the town lot be pay for all day. Randy Feimster is joining the Parking Appeals Committee.

The Doc Watson Sculpture Dedication and Celebration is coming up on June 24. The Concert on the Lawn will feature Jack Lawrence, John Welch, David Holt. The DBDA is asking the Town to waive the fees to close the street, Grand Boulevard. Crowd overflow is anticipated, so we may need to block off parking on King Street. Fotta has been asked to apply for the permit. It will cost \$1,500 to close the street.

Additional banners are requested to complete the display in the downtown area. We are three banners short. The banners are \$125 each, and it will take \$1,500 to complete the project. This is a funding request.

In order to complete the public art display for the year, a new pad will need to be installed in front of Melanie's.

The Easter Eggstravaganza was held at the library, since there was such a deluge of rain. There was a smaller turnout than usual, probably because of the weather. But it went very well.

Rick Beasley from the Yosef Club and Athletics Department at ASU was in attendance at the meeting to see where the DBDA and the university can work together to make the game day experience better for everyone.

Fotta requested some staff development funds to become better acquainted with the workings of the DBDA website. There is \$700 left in the line item used to pay for student interns from ACT. She would like to hire someone to help with the functions of the office through the end of June. This extra person will still stay within the constraints of the budget.

Bettie Bond attended the meeting to see what opportunities may exist for helping the organization.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted for your approval

Sheri J. Moretz