

**Downtown Boone Development Association
Meeting of the Membership
Thursday, January 13, 2011
5:30 p.m. Watauga County Library**

Recorded Attendance

Staff: Mary Baker

Membership: Evalyn Sudderth, RBC Bank & property; Fulton Lovin, Pads for Grads, multiple properties, & proxy for Greg Cox; Crae Morton, Custard Depot & property; Rob Angle, Rob Angle Law Office & property, The Sleeping Place & property, Nikki Burris, BeadBox & Grateful Grounds; Omer Tomlinson, Boone Area Chamber & property; Sheri Moretz-Secretary, Mast General Store & property, proxy vote for ArtWalk (1 property & 1 business), Antiques on Howard, Hands Gallery, Harmon's Dixie Pride (1 property & 2 businesses), Vidalia Restaurant, Shear Shakti, Lucky Penny, 641 RPM, Watauga County Arts Council, and Boone Saloon; Carrie Phillips, Boone Drug & property; Jason Berry-Treasurer, Footsloggers & multiple properties; Bob Meier-Vice President, Doe Ridge Property; Lynne Mason-Town Council Ex-Officio; Andy Stallings, property and proxy vote for Method Construction, Appalachian Signs, Proper Restaurant, Trolley Stop, Gang of Five LLC (3 properties & 1 business), Haircut 101, Capua Law Firm, Eggers, Eggers, Eggers & Eggers (4 properties & 1 business), and Did Someone Say Party?; Dempsey Wilcox-President, two properties and proxy vote for Frank Coffey (5 properties), JMF Realty & property; Sue Harmon property; Greg Lovins/ASU (5 properties)

General Administration

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Dempsey Wilcox, president. The agenda for the evening's meeting was presented for approval. Bob Meier made a motion to approve the agenda. Andy Stallings seconded the motion, and it passed.

Special Order

Discussion on and vote to approve or deny the MSD Special Task Force recommendations accepted by the Boone Town Council (Nov. 18, 2010) in regard to MSD tax administration and presented to the DBDA.

In June 2010, the Town Council established a special Task Force to examine the usage of funds collected from the Municipal Service District. It was made up of 12 members including the six Council members and six members from the MSD based upon location and business type. The Task Force met several times from July through October and presented its recommendations to the Town Council on November 16.

The Town Council had a public hearing to discuss the recommendations and to open the floor for public comment. Several business and property owners from the MSD appeared before the Council and each spoke very positively about the DBDA. After having listened to the public comment, the Town Council met the following night to make a decision on how things were going to progress. The Council accepted several of the recommendations of the Task Force. It did, however, decide that moving forward with the DBDA being the non-profit organization carrying out the MSD administration would be the most beneficial for all involved.

Mary Baker presented the Taskforce recommendations accepted by Council in a PowerPoint presentation.

In a nutshell, the DBDA needs to change its by-laws to allow for the Town to appoint six members of the board and the membership of DBDA to elect six members of the board, ensure that the Council's recommendation for DBDA membership is included in its bylaws, an administrator will be hired by the

Town and will be paid for out of its general fund, and the MSD Task Force will reconvene and to recommend the vision, new director job description, work plan, budget priorities and funding plan for the coming year. In the future, the Council has voted that promotion and physical infrastructure will be the top priorities for MSD spending.

These moves should free more funds to be spent directly to benefit the MSD.

There are some of details that have yet to be ironed out, but will be addressed by the Task Force, such as how the parliamentary positions will be handled.

The goal is to have a diversified board. By having the membership elect half of the board, it will keep the board from becoming a political body by keeping stakeholders directly involved. Lynne Mason feels that this will be a good beginning to move forward and get beyond past issues.

President Dempsey Wilcox addressed each person in the room and asked them voice their comments and questions. Several members expressed that they were pleased with the way the organization operates and that interactions had been very positive. The paid staff, including past director Tuesdae Rice, are great advocates for downtown. This agreement will make for a more intimate relationship with the town and make it feasible to pursue more grants. It is a victory for both Downtown and the DBDA. They were appreciative of the Board for preserving and coming up with a good outcome.

A question was raised about the Task Force. No dates are established right now. People can come to observe and participate in the discussion, but they cannot vote unless they are a member of the Task Force. The new dates, when they are established, will be publicized. Mary will send them to the membership.

With no further questions and discussion, Wilcox explained the voting procedure. Each person present has a stick that corresponds to a vote you may cast. Several people are holding proxies and those are represented in their stick count. As we cast our votes, each person needs to make it clear how many are for and how many are against the motion on the floor. This is an important vote for this body. There are 22 members in attendance with 43 present via proxy. This accounts for 20% of the DBDA membership.

Bob Meier made a motion to accept the recommendations as proposed by the Boone Town Council. Jason Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed with 60 votes in favor and five opposed.

Wilcox thanked everyone for coming and for supporting this plan.

The special meeting of the DBDA membership was adjourned 6:06 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted for your approval

Sheri J. Moretz