

## McCurtain County Tourism Authority Minutes

Held Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - 10:00 AM

**The meeting was held at Broken Bow Public Library at 401 North Broadway Street in Broken Bow.**

Chairman Dave Smulyan called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

**Members present:** Dave Smulyan, Amy Keeling, and Wenda Blankenship. Craig Young arrived late and left early. and Jerry Don Smith. **Absent Board**

**Members:** Jerry Don Smith and Tommy Julian were absent. Executive Director, Charity O'Donnell and Communications Specialist Laura Lester were also present. Guests in attendance were Jennifer Higgins, Haley Harris, Chantell Fuller, Breannia Reed, Vickie Patterson, Stevie Steel, Tina Foshee-Thomas, Stacey Hill, Jackie Lacrone, Erin Acuff, Madison Stout, Rusty Duncan , Kevin Murray, and Matt Farley.

**Grant Proposals:** Haley Harris and Breanna Reed presented the proposal for the Beavers Bend Folk Festival grant. Vickie Patterson presented the one for the Broken Bow Music Festival, she also mentioned some other festivals and events in the works. Jackie Lacrone and Jennifer Higgins presented the Idabel Fall Festival and Dogwood Days proposals. Jennifer spoke about a new advertising opportunity for festivals to take advantage of through some recent acquisitions to Bunyard Broadcasting. Stevie Steel presented the proposals for the McCurtain County Free Fair and McCurtain County Rodeo, Then Chantell Fuller presented the on for the Wright City Rodeo. Gabby from the Wright City Lumberjack Festival couldn't make the meeting however, she had turned everything in beforehand and the board had the information in their packets.

**Special Projects Proposal:** Vickie Patterson presented one on the Winter Wonderland Project, she stated they wanted to add more lights and also an ICE-Skating rink. She said they hope to add things every year to give people a reason to come back every December to enjoy it.

Jennifer Higgins, Haley Harris, Chantell Fuller, Breannia Reed, Jackie Lacrone, and Stevie Steel left the meeting. Craig needed to leave so Dave covered some of the agenda items.

**Minutes:** Wenda Blankenship motioned to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Craig Young seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes.

**Financial Report:** Charity O'Donnell presented the financial report. Wenda Blankenship motioned to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Craig Young. Motion passed 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes.

**Purchase Orders:** Purchase Order amounts for March and April were presented and reviewed. Craig Young made the motion to approve as presented and seconded by Amy Keeling. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes.

**Audit:** A motion was made by Craig Young, seconded by Wenda Blankenship to approve that they received and accepted the audit for the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes

**Budget:** Charity and Dave explained the line items in detail. Wenda Blankenship made the motion to approve the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as presented. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes

**Grant Proposals:** A motion was made by Wenda Blankenship and seconded by Craig Young to accept all proposals that were presented and turned in. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, unstained; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes. Dave sustained as he is on the Idabel Chamber of Commerce board. The motion carried.

**Special Grants:** A motion was made by Craig Young and seconded by Amy Keeling to approve the Winter Wonderland grant request. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes

**Meeting Dates:** A motion was made by Wenda Blankenship and seconded by Craig Young to approve the meeting dates for the next fiscal year as presented. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes

**Board Reappointments:** Charity reported that Craig and Amy are up because she replaced Teresa who only had a few months left in her term. A question was asked to Craig Young if the redistricting changed him out of District 2. He replied that he had never lived in District 2 and that he had always been in District 3. No one in the room was aware of this. A motion was made by Wenda Blankenship and seconded by Amy Keeling to table this item for now. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes.

**Requisitioning and receiving officers:** A motion was made by Wenda Blankenship and seconded by Amy Keeling to table this item for now. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Dave Smulyan, yes; Craig Young, yes; Wenda Blankenship, yes; Amy Keeling, yes.

**Trash project update:** No action was taken, Wenda, Craig, and Dave spoke briefly about what they had heard lately. We are now waiting for the DA's opinion on whether MCTA and solid waste can help fund this cause.

**The issues with ABNB and VRBO:** Dave Smulyan reported that from 2022 and 2023 VRBO's payments for taxes were increased 100%. He explained that it was being collected. Wherever the reservation is made they must collect the tax and remit it.

**Unscheduled New Business:** None presented.

Craig Young and Vickie Patterson left the meeting.

**Advertising Update:** ICG presented a recap for the year of how things have been going. Then they presented the marketing, advertising, and creative plan for the next fiscal year.

**Adjournment:** We lost our quorum when Craig left so no more decisions were made and no motion was made to adjourn. The meeting ended around 1:30 pm.