

## **McCurtain County Tourism Authority Minutes**

**Held Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - 1:00 PM**

**The meeting was held in the Broken Bow Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room at 113 West Martin Luther King Drive in Broken Bow.**

Vice Chairman Tommy Julian called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M.

**Board Members present:** Wenda Blankenship, Jerry Don Smith, Tommy Julian, and Ed Fulmer. **Absent Board Members:** Dave Smulyan and Amy Keeling. Executive Director, Charity O'Donnell and Communications Specialist Laura Lester were also present. The guests in attendance were Shalee Buzan and Brianna Reed. The guests left after their presentations.

**Discussion and possible action to approve the Special Project Grant Project for the Forest Heritage Center Handi Cap accessible ramp and porch and emergency exit ramp project.** Shalee and Brianna presented the proposal and went over it in detail. They explained that these improvements will significantly enhance the visitor experience and make the FHC accessible to all and improve safety and functionality of the museum's infrastructure. They also presented pictures of these areas of the museum and explained the changes needed. A motion was made by Wenda Blankenship and seconded by Ed Fulmer to approve a Special Projects Grant for \$22,750 as presented. The motion passed 4-0. Wenda Blankenship, yes; Jerry Don Smith, yes; Tommy Julian, yes; and Ed Fuler, yes. Charity went over what they would need to do to get reimbursed. The board thanked her for coming then they left.

**Advertising Update:** Charity reported that the Dart train is Dallas is wrapped and running. The Tourism Economics Study kicks off this month. We had live snow pictures. Social video team was here last week getting content, in February the commercial film crew will be here filming a Cabins video, new commercial, Local Impact Video and Teddy Owens Spring Video. Tommy asked about RFP's, Charity stated they went out the last week of December and that several have already contacted her wanting more details. She reminded the board we would go through them at the next meeting and narrow it down to 3 finalists to present at the May meeting.

**Discussion and possible action on DA's opinion on the Trash Project:** Jerry Don stated he hadn't gotten to it but he would get with Dave and they would try to talk to DA to see if he could learn more. No action was taken.

**Minutes:** Ed Fulmer motioned to approve the November meeting minutes as presented. Jerry Don Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Wenda Blankenship, yes; Jerry Don Smith, yes; Tommy Julian, yes; and Ed Fuler, yes.

**Financial Report:** Charity O'Donnell presented the financial report Ed Fulmer motioned to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Wenda Blankenship. The motion passed 4-0. Wenda Blankenship, yes; Jerry Don Smith, yes; Tommy Julian, yes; and Ed Fuler, yes.

**Purchase Orders:** Purchase Order amounts for November and December were presented and reviewed. The motion passed 4-0. Wenda Blankenship, yes; Jerry Don Smith, yes; Tommy Julian, yes; and Ed Fuler, yes. The board stated we need to get on them to turn their grant Wright City Lumberjack Festival is on hold waiting on a couple of invoices. They said we need to better explain the deadline and hold them to it. Everyone agreed.

Under unscheduled new business: Wenda brought up the open position. Chairty explained it is the state park manager position it is out there, but it is up to Mike our current park manager to fulfill that role.

Jerry Don Smith stated that on behalf of the City of Broken Bow he wanted to Thank the board for their support of the Christmas Lights and Ice-skating project this year through the Special Projects Grant this year. The board talked about how they would like to light up the entire country and draw people here to look at lights every Christmas.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Jerry Don Smith to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Ed Fulmer. The meeting ended around 1:46 pm. The motion passed 4-0. Wenda Blankenship, yes; Jerry Don Smith, yes; Tommy Julian, yes; and Ed Fuler, yes.