

**Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 12, 2024  
Location: Morris Room, 132 Main St., Palmyra, VA 22963**

Members: legend – p=present, a=absent

George Goin, Farm Bureau Representative – P  
Tricia Johnson, Fluvanna Historical Society Representative – A  
Kathleen Kilpatrick, At-Large Representative – P  
Peggy Shanklin, At-Large Representative - P  
Nina Monroe, Business Representative, Chair – P  
Ben Shaw, At-Large Representative – P  
Cathy Tatro, At-Large Representative, Vice Chair – P  
Jeff Potter, EDA Representative – P  
Suzy Morris, At-Large Representative – P  
Mike Goad, BOS Representative – P

Staff:

Eric Dahl, Fluvanna County Administrator – A  
Jennifer Schmack, Director of Economic Development – P  
Aaron Spitzer, Director of Parks & Recreation – P

Guests:

Carolyn Talley

**Call to Order:**

Chair Called the Meeting to order at 6:00

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of January 8, 2023 Minutes:**

Ms. Tatro made a motion to approve the minutes of the EDTAC meeting on January 8, 2024, and Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**Old Business:**

Regarding the historic courthouse restoration, Ms. Kilpatrick reported that a top candidate for the preservation A&E contractor for the project had been identified through a competitive process along with a very close second, and that negotiations were underway with the first choice.

Regarding the gateway signs project, Mrs. Schmack called for someone to chair the committee for the project, and Ms. Tatro volunteered. Brief discussion followed concerning the roads, entry points targeted, and the importance of locating signs for both visibility and safety.

Regarding the 250th Rev War Commemorations, Ms. Kilpatrick report that the committee had not met formally as a whole, but that much discussion had taken place with Mrs. Talley and Ms. Johnson in meetings and with Ms. Shanklin by phone. Ms. Monroe was away for the week but had seen the document drafted by Ms. Kilpatrick to collate all the ideas for possible events and programs. Ms. Kilpatrick described their informing principles as desiring to be inclusive, community based, fun, and educational in choosing projects and activities that will allow many community organizations and individuals to partner. She also noted a commitment to legacy projects that will leave something tangible behind. The committee will meet before the next EDTAC meeting to add to and cull the draft list in order make recommendations to the Council at the next meeting. She expressed the committee's hope that all EDTAC members would become involved in the selected events and programs to ensure a successful commemoration.

Ms. Shanklin raised an issue that previously a very active and committed EDTAC committee had thrown itself and much time and effort into launching a successful Grooving at the Grove. She felt they had not been thanked and had been troubled that once shown successful, the project was "taken away." Mr. Spitzer expressed the sense that while volunteers were and are key, the County was the natural lead for the ongoing effort given the site, resources, and related expertise on staff. Ms. Monroe offered her thanks to the volunteers that made the inaugural event a success.

#### **New Business:**

Welcoming Mr. Goad for the first time, the members each introduced themselves, their work affiliations, and interests in EDTAC's mission.

Mrs. Schmack reports that the County had received a highly competitive SBA grant the focus of which is Fork Union business revitalization. A small business adviser will be placed there 2 days a week to advise and assist existing businesses. She noted stakeholder meetings will be held and people will serve as ambassadors. She has been working closely with Ms. Loretta Johnson-Morgan and Chair Monroe.

The discussion turned to the timeframe and potentially game changer impact for Fork Union of a phased infusion of \$50 million from Dominion in connection with an agreement on coal ash closure and treatment. A preliminary report funded by the SBA grant is assessing existing systems capacity, which will tie into efforts to deliver water and sewer to the Fork Union with Dominion funds. She noted as well that EDTAC's mapping of Fork Union would be supported in implementation by the SBA grant.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Goin mentioned having seen some very effective and well-done online short “nickel” tours promoting other counties and recommended that strategy. Mrs. Schmack said she was working toward just that goal.

Mr. Goin discussed his work bringing high-speed internet to all areas of the County, the progress, and positive coordination with the area’s power providers. He noted as well his time spent at the general assembly session as particularly chaotic given so many new members and everyone now operating in a new building.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kilpatrick

DRAFT