

**Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Council
Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 8, 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 – P
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 – A
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 – A

Call to Order:

Chair Called the Meeting to order at 6:00

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Approval of February 12, 2024 Minutes:

Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the EDTAC meeting on March 11, 2024, and Ms. Shanklin seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Old Business:

- a. Courthouse Restoration— Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the contract for Architectural & Engineering Services to oversee the restoration was awarded and that the successful bidder was John Milner Associates which firm had undertaken the Historic Structures Report. Work should get underway shortly on the fully funded Phase 1 priority tasks. She noted with regret that Fluvanna Director of Public Works Calvin Hickman, with whom she appreciated working, has resigned to return to run his family's private restoration and construction firm as of April 15. A recruitment is posted

- b. Gateway Signs Committee— Ms. Tatro, chair, being absent, Mrs. Morris reported for the committee (including Monroe, Morris, Shanklin, Shaw and Spitzer) on the selection of entry roadways to be marked: Rt. 53, Rt. 6 from the East and West, Rt. 15 from the North and South, and Rt. 250 from the East and West. The committee favors a design similar to the existing Bremono Bridge entry with variations in size and scale given site specific characteristics. The Council members were enthusiastic. Cost estimates needs to be developed and funding secured. Mrs. Schmack agreed to investigate potential funding options. She will also liaison with VDOT on any oversight and other requirements.

- c. Fluvanna VA250: Ms. Kilpatrick, chair, reported that the committee (Monroe, Shanklin, Johnson, and Schmack) had met (Kilpatrick, Monroe and Shanklin) recently to discuss goals and potential concepts. The lengthy narrative concept justification document drafted by Ms. Kilpatrick will be put into a chart form by Ms. Johnson for ease of review, discussion, and selection of target activities by the Council. She noted the committee envisions working with many partners to (the arts, music and theater communities, the Historical Society, the school system and the County) to lead and deliver various programs and activities for both young and adult audiences. Mr. Shaw recommended involving Empower Players. The committee wants to be inclusive and broadly community based. Columbia Day may incorporate the erection of a LaFayette trail sign and one is planned as well in Wilmington. She reported on a fundraiser in planning, proceeds to be shared by the Courthouse Restoration Fund and Fluvanna VA250 and noted that we have some lead time to organize with partners around selected activities and programs.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Announcements:

Mrs. Schmack reported on planning for Grooving at the Grove, a program of monthly concerts at the Pleasant Grove featuring local musicians, food trucks, beverages, and good family fun. A committee (comprised of two members from Parks & Rec, two from Economic Development, and two from County Administration) has selected the artists/bands that will present this season, May through October. The desire for a variety of music was a strong selection factor. FLAG and FLDP are partnering to support aspects of the October program, and dates and times will allow for synergies with Art-Fest in Palmyra scheduled for on Second Saturdays.

Mrs. Schmack also reported on the status of the Fork Union business map projects. Production costs have been folded into a larger Tourism grant application.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kilpatrick