



## City of Mount Airy Downtown / Small Business Development Committee Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2021 - 12:00PM  
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Member(s) Present:			
Marie Wood	Lizzie Morrison	Nathan Bond	Teresa Leiva (Late)
Member(s) Absent:			
Christopher Cook	Eve Trotter	Holli Nowlin	Will Sheppard
Staff Present:			
Carolyn Hegler (Host)			

- I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Wood called the meeting to order at 12:05PM.
- II. Roll Call**

Commissioner Wood took call. Three (3) members were present. Ms. Leiva joined the meeting later.
- III. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes**
  - a. January 27, 2021
  - b. February 3, 2021
  - c. February 10, 2021
  - d. February 17, 2021
  - e. March 10, 2021

Commissioner Wood asked for a motion to approve the five (5) sets of minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Morrison to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bond. The minutes were unanimously (3-0) approved.

#### **IV. Discussion of Final Recommendations & Presentation**

Ms. Morrison shared images of different farmer's markets (event spaces), public gardens, splashpads, outdoor seating, public art and streetscapes (greenspace). The group discussed the different images and their likes/dislikes. They also discussed having Brad Spencer (Whittling Wall Artist) create sculptures of millworkers at the Spencer's Mill site. The discussion turned to incorporating some of these elements on the conceptual site plan for Spencer's.

Ms. Morrison presented an overview of a young entrepreneur program in Marion, NC called the GEM Program and how that could potentially work in Mount Airy. The group discussed recruiting certain types of businesses and some potential issues including lack of building inventory.

Currently, the listed recommendations to present to the Commissioners include an open-air multi-purpose structure that can house the farmer's market and host events, components of a downtown master plan (streetscaping, traffic analysis, etc.), the Franklin Street parking lot renovation and a grant program for young entrepreneurs.

Commissioner Wood outlined the process for creating the presentation and for committee members to present the recommendations to the Commissioners. Mr. Bond and Ms. Leiva had no issue with presenting the recommendations. Ms. Morrison recommended that the committee prioritize the recommendations.

Commissioner Wood set the next meeting for March 31, 2021 at 12:00PM.

#### **V. Adjournment**

At 12:45PM, Commissioner Wood adjourned the meeting.