

HCTDA Board Meeting Minutes
Special Board Meeting
August 15, 2024
Lake Junaluska Bethea Welcome Center

Members/Staff Present: Jim Owens, Mike Huber, Dr. Shelley White, Jeff Hillis, Gail Mull, Chad King, Angie Frisbee, Chuck Dickson, Jennifer Best, Natalie Hawkins, Amie Newsome, Ashley Rock-Rice, Corrina Ruffieux, Hayley Printz

Members Absent: Kelsie Baker, Jeremy Boone, Scot Blair, Kristian Owen

Guests Present: Brionna Dallara, Becky Johnson, Cory Vaillancourt

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Jim Owens called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2. **Public Comment Session (12 minutes total, limit 3 minutes per person)** - none

3. **Old Business**

- Discussion of grant funding | **VOTE**
 - The Executive Committee further reviewed the grant proposal for the IDEA Passport, submitted by Misfit Mountain in partnership with IDEA of Haywood. Further research indicated the following that we were not aware of at the time of the grant award:
 - IDEA of Haywood participates in lobbying and political initiatives. The HCTDA does not support any lobbying, political activities and/or events.
 - IDEA of Haywood has previously advocated for boycotting and blacklisting certain local businesses, which is directly at odds with our commitment to fostering a supportive environment for all businesses within Haywood County.

Therefore, the Executive Committee unanimously recommends to the Board that we withdraw the grant for the IDEA Passport.

- Chuck Dickson clarified that it is clearly written in the guidelines and discussed in the grant workshop that the TDA doesn't support lobbying or political initiatives. He stated that it was a messy situation, because Misfit Mountain applied for the grant and are not affiliated with lobbying or political initiatives, but IDEA of Haywood is. Corrina Ruffieux stated that both organizations signed the grant application. Jim Owens stated that we do not make this recommendation lightly, but we feel confident this decision is in the best interest of the community as a whole, and that we will work to improve our grant process, so this type of mistake does not happen in the future.
- Mike Huber made a motion to rescind the grant. Natalie Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Next Board Meeting – August 28, 2024**

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM