

MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2023
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
3:30 P.M.

Colleton County Government
109 Benson Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Henry Hiott, Kisha Kinard, Gary Brightwell, Jennie Smith, Dr. Sarah Miller (Presenter), and Kaela Brinson, are in attendance.

Henry Hiott, Chairman called the meeting to Order.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Virtual Regular Meeting January 4, 2023— Ms. Kinard moved to approve the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brightwell and the motion was carried unanimously.
- B. Virtual Regular Meeting March 8, 2023— Ms. Kinard moved to approve the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held on March 8, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brightwell and the motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

- A. ATAX Fund Balance

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, we have collected \$18, 945.00 for quarters one and two of the current year. We started off with \$71, 447.00 at the end of fiscal year 2022. We have dispersed \$65,800.00, which left us with \$5, 647.00 of the prior year funds. In total, we currently have, with first and second quarter funds, \$24,592.00 that can be dispersed.

Chairman Hiott: Asked if we have already put ads out about the available funds?

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, yes. I can put out new ads, but there were ads put out previously. I have spoken with individuals that have applied in previous years, and they do have intentions of submitting for funding.

No further questions.

- B. Vacant Seats (Lodging and Hospitality)

Chairman Hiott: Stated, we are looking to add Scott Grooms to the board. Once he gets his application in, we can accept him and then have County Council approve it. We also need someone to represent the Lodging seat. Jennie knows of some potential leads there.

Ms. Smith: Stated, I will send those to Kaela.

Chairman Hiott: Stated, okay great. Please make sure those people can show up to a zoom meeting once a quarter or so. These aren't long meetings as I try to keep them short and sweet.

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, we can always cut back on how often we can meet once we have a good quorum that's able to show up. The goal is to meet twice a year.

No further comments.

Old Business

A. Amendment to the Use of Funds — Colleton County Historical Society—2021-22 Accessibility and Tourism at the Bedon-Lucas House to Colleton County Historical Society —2021-22 ADA compliant panels

Chairman Hiott: Stated, we have Dr. Sarah Miller on with us to discuss an amendment to her previous request.

Dr. Miller: Stated, to give you all a little bit of background, what we originally applied for had to do with ADA Compliance at the Bedon Lucas House. We thought during that time that we could get official documentation to say that changes to the Bedon-Lucas House would cause destruction to the historic fabric of the house. We planned to then move forward with some other ADA ideas that we had. We could not get anyone to put that into writing. We spoke with architects and lawyers and they all had great things to say, but would not put it into writing. So, we are asking to allocate that \$6,000 into informational panels to put in front of the Bedon-Lucas House. So, the idea here is to still be compliant due to some individuals not being able to get into the house. If you do not know this is a "high house" and is 5 feet off the ground. There is no way to get into the house without a ramp, lift, or stairs. If we put panels outside on ground level right outside the Bedon-Lucas House, then we would be able to bring the inside out. We want to show people the historic significance of what is inside the house, but on ground level. This would allow those with wheelchairs or canes to access the information. We would also like to include a QR code that would take you to our website, as well as video tours of what is in the house. We did some research and the kind of panels we are looking at run about \$1,500 to \$2,000. Originally, we were thinking about three of those up by the house and not by the sidewalk. I spoke with Kaela earlier and there might be a possibility of additional money. I am also asking not only to use the \$6,000 for those panels, but for an extra \$4,000 to make sure that we would have all of the house information. We would also like to put a matching informational panel at the library to make sure that everything is consistent. There would be five panels instead of the three we originally anticipated.

Mrs. Brightwell: Asked, have you spoken with the city, or expect any issues with the city? I know they are picky about where signage can go on the outside. It might be worth a check if you haven't done this already.

Dr. Miller: Stated, we have not. That was a very good suggestion, but I do not suspect any issues because we want to put them up against the house.

Mrs. Kinard: Asked, do you have a written estimate on the cost of the panels?

Dr. Miller: Stated, I have a website that we have looked at. I am looking at something like these (shows example). This is the effect that we are looking for. We have considered different angles, but we feel like these look the nicest and we don't want people to come sit on them or use them as tables.

Mrs. Kinard: Stated, I think the panels are a good idea to make the information available to visitors especially to make them available when you are not there. I would like to see you submit this information in writing just so everything is available for the State.

Dr. Miller: Stated, absolutely, I can do that.

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, I did talk to Jon about that, and we do not need a whole new application. We only need this video recording to make an amendment. We could submit a letter for his records. However, the requested increase in funding would have to go to Council via Resolution. I would attach the letter to the resolution asking for increased funding. If the board does want a full application, then it needs to be made clear that this is an amendment.

Chairman Hiott: Stated, if I understand correctly, and we're talking about reallocating the funds that were already approved, we can do that by vote. Will the additional funds require an application?

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, no. The increase in funds will all be included in last year's request. The only reason it has to go to County Council is because there is a request of additional funds. If this was just a change in project, we would not send it to County Council. Jon stated that we are meeting state guidelines by the process I have described.

Chairman Hiott: Stated, I believe Ms. Kinard is just concerned. I think it is a great project, but it would be nice to have the paperwork to back up the money we have dispersed. Would it be possible to approve upon receipt of the paperwork?

Mrs. Brinson: Stated, I think you all could vote on it with the contingency that we would receive the letter or application. Please just state what you all would like Dr. Miller to submit. I will facilitate getting it out to you all before it goes to County Council.

Mrs. Pinckney: Stated, I believe we need to add in an approval from the City of Walterboro for the signs.

Chairman Hiott: Stated, I agree that it would be contingent upon the City of Walterboro's approval. Would someone like to make a motion?

Mrs. Brightwell made a motion to approve the reallocation of the funding and the additional funding contingent on the Historical Society submitting a letter and the approval of the City of Walterboro. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Brightwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kinard seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

This 13th day of September, 2023.


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council