

## **Minutes**

Regular Meeting

Thursday March 4, 2021 6:30 pm

Ag Building

Attendance:

Directors Present:

Lee "Skip" Baliles  
Tricia Elliott  
Dana Russell  
Rick Stepp  
Branden Whitfield

Guests Present:

Dessa Morris, Walton County Development Authority

Directors Not Present:

Michael Dermer

**Call to Order:** Chairman Baliles called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**

Pledge was led by Mr. Stepp and prayer was led by Mr. Baliles.

**2. Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2021 Meeting and Treasurer's Report**

Minutes - The last LDA meeting was held on January 28, 2021. On a motion duly made by Mr. Whitfield and seconded by Mr. Stepp the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Stepp presented a report on LDA finances (attached) which included deposit of \$1,000 in sponsorship payments. Cash on hand as of March 4 was reported as \$40,428.15. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mrs. Elliott, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Stepp also reported that he had provided LDA financial records to the City in response to their request for information to complete the City's annual financial audit.

**3. Guest Speaker: Dessa Morris, Workforce Development/Development Authority of Walton**

## **County**

Mrs. Morris made a presentation to the Board on economic development concepts and practices. She shared the following economic development goals being pursued by Walton County:

- Job creation
- Private investment
- Tax base expansion
- Wealth creation
- High quality of life

### **4. Events Committee Report and Update**

Mr. Baliles stated that he and Mr. Whitfield had been in further discussions with City officials regarding the "Battle of the Bands" event. Mr. Baliles related that during these discussions City staff expressed the City's desire that the event would be free to the public. Staff indicated that if the LDA insisted on charging an admission fee, the City could not help cover expenses for the event; and that if admission was free, the City would agree to cover half of the expenses.

Mr. Whitfield stated that with the event open free to the public, the Board would expect its half of the expenses for the event to be around \$2,700. Revenues to the LDA would consist of a \$100 fee for each vendor, a \$25 fee for each band, and ticket sales for the "People's Choice" vote for the best band.

Mr. Baliles further reported that during discussions with the City, staff clarified that the City's alcohol sales ordinance did not include the area in which the LDA was planning the event, but that the City Council would be taking up a change to the ordinance in its March 11 meeting to include that area.

Mr. Russell made a motion to authorize the LDA Events Committee to proceed in negotiating an agreement and arrangements with the City to jointly host the Battle of the Bands event with free admission to the public and equal sharing of expenses; to move an additional \$500 from the Board's general fund to the events account to fund the Board's portion of expenses for the event; and to pursue verification that any liability assumed by the Board for hosting the event would be covered by the City's liability insurance with the Board listed as a named insured for this event on the City's policy. Upon second by Mr. Whitfield the motion was unanimously approved.

### **5. Need for "called" meeting/Battle Bands**

Mr. Baliles stated that he would call the Board to a special meeting for final approval of the agreement with the City and arrangements for the event.

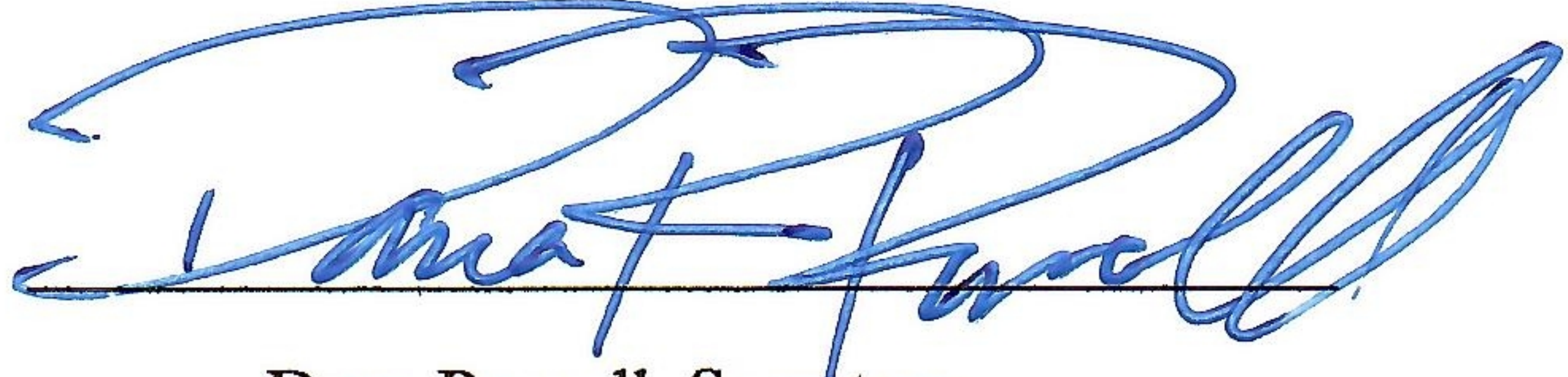
### **6. Adjournment**

On a motion duly made by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Whitfield, and unanimously approved, the

meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.



Lee "Skip" Baliles, Chairman



Dana Russell, Secretary

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