

**TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BUDGET WORK SESSION – MAY 28, 2019**

The Tourism Development Authority (TDA) held their annual budget work session on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 beginning at 3:30 p.m. The work session was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock. Present were Chairman Dean Bullis, Vice-Chairman Jim Steele, Members Lance Campbell and Kevin Walker. Ex-officio Member Nicole Norman, TDA Executive Director Tracy Brown and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner were also present. Member Greg Tarbutton was not present.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bullis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the proposed FY 2019-2020 TDA Budget.

Topics discussed included:

- Lee Carol Giduz and Ashley Warren from BRAHM spoke to the Board to request advertisement funding for the upcoming FY19-20. Ms. Giduz thanked for the Board for their contribution the last FY18-19 and advised the money was well spent. Ms. Warren advised with the TDA's funding help they have been able to expand their advertising and reach state and national levels that wouldn't have been possible to without the help. Ms. Giduz stated she felt it has put BRAHM on the map and people are traveling here to see their exhibits. One of the huge exhibits BRAHM will host in the Fall is The Cone Sisters art exhibit. Ms. Giduz and Ms. Warren feel it will be a huge draw for Blowing Rock and the Museum. Ms. Giduz concluded the partnership with the TDA has been great and she would like to continue the relationship.
- Executive Director Tracy Brown and Ex-officio Member Nicole Norman reviewed the budget highlights with the board.
- Member Steele wanted more detail on the salary line item percent increase which was due to increased insurance premiums and new part time help.
- The Middle Fork Greenway and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation donation requests budgeted were briefly discussed. Mr. Brown explained the importance of both organizations and how they attract tourism.
- The Board discussed the recommended funding of the \$63,943 for the Memorial Park Playground Rehab Project Reserve. After further discussion the consensus among the Members was to put \$52,000 of the \$63,943 into a contingency fund with the intent if all goes as planned with funding of the budget those funds will be moved to help with the Memorial Park Playground Project.

With no further questions or changes, the Members agreed to move forward with the proposed budget. The public hearing to adopt the budget will be held on June 4, 2019 at the regular scheduled meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Steele made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m., seconded by Member Campbell. Unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN _____
Dean Bullis

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk