

**Watauga County District U Tourism Development Authority – Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Called Meeting - Zoom**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2024**

PRESENT: Matt Vincent – Chair  
Kim Rogers  
Lisa Cooper  
Tony Gray – Vice Chair  
Missy Harrill  
Tina Houston  
Wright Tilley, TDA Executive Director  
Hope Thingelstad, TDA Director of Tourism Outreach  
Emily Neeley, TDA Director of Social Media and PR

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Brad Moretz, App Ski Mtn  
Alex Gotherman, Destination by Design  
Jordan Mattar, VPC Builders

**Call to Order:** *The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vincent at 8:30 a.m.*

**Approval of the April 4, 2024 board meeting agenda:**

*Tony Gray, seconded by Lisa Cooper, moved to approve the March 12, 2024 board meeting agenda.*                      **VOTE: AYE – 6 / NAY – 0**

**Project Updates**

i.        Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park Project

The Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park project has a few change orders for the board of directors to consider. First, Greene’s Construction would like to completely repave the parking lot where it has been affected by construction equipment instead of paving over the existing asphalt. Second, the original parking layout was not ideal so there are new options to allow for more space between cars and to allow more room for maneuvering. Finally, Greene’s Construction put together a quote for staining the wood in the entire park, except for the gateway signage and fencing. This project would also require a walk-through to determine any other needs. Wright pointed out there is some rotten wood at the existing picnic shelter that needs to be replaced on top of the quotes provided by Greene’s construction.

ii.       Howard Knob Park Project

Grading is underway at Howard Knob Park, but the final plans have not been completed by the engineering company yet. Once those plans are approved, Destination by Design expects the

project will go to bid by May 2024. Alex presented three signage options for the entrance to the park. The board decided on the High-Pressure Laminate/Corten entrance sign option.

iii. Crab Orchard Falls Project

The new trails being built to Crab Orchard Falls should be finished in less than two weeks from this meeting unless the TDA board decides to change the scope of the project to include replacing the existing wooden boardwalks. The company would use stone harvested from on-site to build walkways to replace the existing wooden boardwalks and steps.

iv. Wayfinding Signage

Signs, etc. will be installing the footers for the second phase of the Wayfinding Signage Project starting in April. The installation should be complete by June 1.

**New Business**

i. Crab Orchard Falls Change Order

*Tony Gray, seconded by Tina Houston, moved to approve the \$22,000 change order for new stone walkways at Crab Orchard Falls. The motion passed (5/0). Lisa Cooper recused herself from the vote.*

ii. Rocky Knob Mountain Bike Park Change Order

*Missy Harrill, seconded by Tony Gray, moved to approve the \$5,796.16 change order for the milling and paving of the parking lot at Rocky Knob Park. The motion passed (6/0).*

*Tony Gray, seconded by Tina Houston, moved to approve the \$7,221.79 change order for the new parking lot layout at Rocky Knob Park. The motion passed (6/0).*

iii. Grand Blvd. Project Change Order

The plans for the exterior and parking areas at Grand Blvd. have changed to include some additional exterior work. The cost is \$61,831 higher than the original estimate, bringing the total to \$148,551.

*Tina Houston, seconded by Lisa Cooper, moved to approve the change orders for the Grand Blvd. site improvements. The motion passed (6/0). Matt Vincent recused himself from the vote.*

**The board meeting was adjourned at 9:19 am.**