



Friends In Tourism
August 18, 2016
Fayetteville Area CVB – 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3:00 pm

Members Present: Benny Pearce; Leisa Greathouse; Colleen Bowers; Talia Rodriguez; Matthew Overturf; Meg Suraci; Denise Comulada; Angie Brady; Jessica Bennett.

Welcome: Angie Brady, FACVB, opened the meeting at 3:03pm by welcoming the group and thanking all for attending today's meeting. Angie decided to start the meeting with **Group**

Information Sharing:

- **Leisa Greathouse, Museum of the Cape Fear**
 - **Rise of the Funeral Parlor** - Sunday, August 28th at 2:00pm. In conjunction with the museum's current special exhibit, Parlor to Parlor: Funeral Traditions of the Cape Fear, 1850-1950, David Hall will give a presentation about how funerals went from taking place in the parlors of homes to the rise of the funeral parlor as a business.
 - **Festival of Yesteryear** - Saturday, September 10th from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Focusing on the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods, this program features re-enactors demonstrating various aspects of daily life including colonial medicine, crime and punishment, music, toys and games, and militia drills. Highlighting this year's event is the return of Lafayette, portrayed by Mark Schneider.
 - Also reminded the group of the museum's annual Halloween Revels and Holiday Jubilee coming up for the holidays.

- **Denise Comulada, FACVB**
 - Reminded everyone of the CVB's other visitors sites and to please share any and all information on your attractions. As long you provide the information, it will be distributed.

- **Meg Suraci, Cape Fear Botanical Garden**
 - **13th Heritage Festival** – Sunday, September 18th from 11:00am to 5:00pm: A fun filled day of history in the Heritage Garden Complex made up of a Farm House, General Store, Tobacco Barn, and Corn Crib. There will also be children's activities including pony rides and pumpkin painting. Refreshments will be available for purchase.
 - **Halloween at the Boo-tanical Garden** – Friday, October 28th to Sunday, October 30th. Trails will be decorated with jack-o-lanterns and food and beverages will be available for purchase.
 - **Nature Connects: LEGO Exhibit** – Begins Friday, September 30th and runs through Sunday, January 8th, 2017. Exhibit will feature LEGO sculptures inspired by nature and include educational activities, as well as hands-on LEGO brick building.
 - **Holiday Lights in the Garden** – Begins Friday, December 9th and runs through Friday, December 30th. Attractions and festivities include a synchronized show of lights and music, a mile long stroll featuring thousands of lights aglow, photos with Santa on select evenings, S'mores roasting over the fire pit, and free crafts for children.

- **Collen Bowers, Carvers Creek State Park**
 - Updated the group on April event – Blast from the Past. It was a successful event with over 1,000 people in attendance and has decided to turn into an annual event, but moving the date to October. Also, reminded everyone of the park receiving the NC Connect Bond grant. The park is very excited and planning will begin in 2017. Also stated that the park has participated in 116 Interpretation and Education programs and the park has received 46,892 visitors since January 2016.

- **Matthew Overturf, Gilbert Theater**
 - **2016-17 Season** - Announced to the group that the 2016-17 season is underway and will open with Steel Magnolias starting September 23rd and running through October 9th. The production of It's a Wonderful Life has become a Gilbert tradition and will run November 26th through December 18th. And will also have productions of August: Osage County, Secret Garden and The Diary of Anne Frank.

- **Gilbert Glee** – Mentioned to the group if anyone knew of any kids that would be interested in auditioning for the Gilbert Glee (Gilbert's young company), that auditions will be held Saturday, August 20th from 12:00-3:30pm.
- **Benny Pearce, Averagesboro Battlefield Museum**
 - A production of **Soldiers Through History & World War II Live** – Saturday, November 19th from 9:00am to 5:00pm. An annual living history event with static displays and demonstrations.
 - **The 20th Masonic District Averagesboro Battlefield Degree** – Saturday, October 15th from 8:00am to 5:00pm. A Confederate campsite and reenactment; tickets are \$25.00 and sale proceeds are to benefit the Masonic Home for Children Oxford.
 - **Averagesboro Battlefield Museum Golf Fundraiser** – Wednesday, October 12th at Chicora Country Club. All funds raised will go to improvements of the museum facilities.
- **Talia Rodriguez, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra**
 - Announced that 2016-17 is the Symphony's 60th season.
 - For the 60th season, five candidates, that were chosen out of 200+ applicants, will be conducting concerts in search for the next Music Director and Conductor to lead the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and they are asking for the public's help. Go to www.fayettevillesymphony.org to learn more about the candidates and how to participate.
 - **Jazz & Wine Fest** – Friday, October 7th, starting at 7:00pm- Festival Park; tickets on sale.
 - **The Fayetteville Symphony Youth Orchestra** – Season starts Sunday, September 18th; more info available on-line.

Opportunities and Partnerships: Angie reviewed and reminded the group of the upcoming opportunities and partnerships. (1) Welcome Center Partner Days are scheduled for Friday, September 16th (I-95 North) and Friday September, 23rd (I-95 South). Angie explained that those who were interested were more than welcome to attend. She would be sending the invite and information out again, but would need responses. (2) Reminded the group to please share event information for distribution. **Please email your event details to either Jenny or Angie at jbelle@visitfayettevillenc.com or abrady@visitfayettevillenc.com.**

Angie mentioned that she would be moving the FIT meetings to quarterly, as well as changing the day from Tuesday to Thursday. The change is in hopes that it will make it easier for individuals to attend. She gave the group the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year:
November 17th, 2016

February 16th, 2017
May 25th, 2017

Events: Angie wanted to review with the group the improved www.gofayetteville.com site. She reminded everyone that it is a comprehensive resource for visitors (all information points back to the FACVB website and calendar) and also encouraged the group to utilize it as well. Angie explained that Tuesdays of every week, Jenny, the FACVB Communications Coordinator, will be posting blogs that will cover 6 top interests for visitors and on Thursdays, she will blog about weekend happenings. Angie pointed out that all blogs will be shared on numerous social media outlets and showed the group how the site looks and functions. She also reviewed the events that Jenny posted for the month of July, as well as where those events were uploaded and shared.

Lastly, Angie reminded the group to please share any information and events. All events are uploaded and distributed on your behalf and not just to the CVB website. If you have any questions you can contact Melody mfoote@visitfayettevillenc.com or Jenny jbelle@visitfayettevillenc.com, and they can answer any questions you may have.

~ Next Meeting ~

Thursday, November 17th, 2016 ~ 3:00 pm ~ FACVB, 2nd Floor Conference Room