



Wednesday, March 12, 2025 10:05 AM

Members Present: TDA Chairperson Tabatha Walsh (Murphy Family Ventures),
Madison Wise-Fussell (Duplin Winery) Jess Melton (Magnolia Dreams Inn)

Members Absent: Commissioner Jesse Dowe, Duplin County Finance Officer
Chelsey Lanier (ex officio member) Sonia Guardado (Sombrero Loco Taqueria)
Jordon Whaley (Cabin Lake),

Duplin County Staff Present: Administrative Specialist Jasmine Savage,
Executive Director of Tourism Robert Cox, Director of the Events Center Amanda
Pope, and Duplin County Tourism Christa Parker

Tabatha Walsh presided over the meeting.

Tabatha Walsh requested a moment of silence.

No Quorum

Duplin County Events Center Update

Amanda Pope gave an update on the Events Center. The Events Center is working on removing the dirt. The staff is preparing the arena for the College and Career Day on March 20. Upcoming events at the Events Center include a Tracy Lawrence concert and a Juneteenth celebration. It was reported that previous events, such as the Monster Truck show and rodeo, were well attended, and profits were made from both. Amanda Pope left after this update.

Executive Tourism Director Update:

Robert presented an update to the board on the year-to-date budget, including encumbrances and the occupancy tax collected thus far this year. Spending is projected to be on track for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Robert went over the proposed 2025-2026 budget and provided the board with a copy of the proposed budget. Robert also discussed some of the adjustments that were made to the 2025-2026, which included increases in salaries, postage, and travel. Due to the April Visit NC tourism conference,

Budget \$19,400 toward the cost of the event. \$10,000 will be used in this budget year, and \$9,400 will be used in the next budget year.

Jess motioned to move \$10,000 from the fund balance to cover the cost of hosting the Cycle NC event.

Commissioner Dowe 2nd -Motion Passed

Old Business

The TDA office will be moving into the front office in the building currently occupied by the board of elections.

Jordon made the motion to move \$13,290 from the fund balance for the move.

Jess 2nd -Motion Passed

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 A.M.

TDA Chairperson