

FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCONEE COUNTY PRT COMMISSION  
March 2, 2023  
County Council Chambers  
12:00 pm

**Members present were:** Shawn Johnson, Riley Johnson, Alex Butterbaugh & Kevin Cope  
**Guests present were:** Luther Lyle & Tim Todd  
**Also present were:** Phil Shirley, PRT Director, Ken Sloan, Visit Oconee Director & Mandy Holbrooks, PRT Secretary

**Call to Order**

**Shawn Johnson** called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes of **December 1, 2022 & February 23, 2023**, by **Shawn Johnson**, seconded by **Alex Butterbaugh**. Vote was unanimously carried.

**Presentation of Grants**

1. City of Seneca – advertising “Independence Day Celebration” – \$25,000.00
2. Discover Upcountry Carolina Association – advertising - \$15,000.00
3. Eagles Nest Arts Center – advertising - \$2,400.00
4. Gateway Arts Council – advertising - \$1,500.00
5. Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina – archaeological dig - \$12,000.00
6. Oconee Chamber of Commerce – employee funding for Visitor Information Center in Westminster - \$15,000.00
7. Oconee Military Museum – window replacement - \$7,470.00
8. South Carolina Apple Festival (60<sup>th</sup>) – advertising - \$10,000.00
9. The Foothills Agricultural Resource Marketing Center – installation of safety lighting - \$10,000.00
10. Walhalla Performing Arts Center – advertising the 2023 season - \$15,000.00
11. Westminster Music Center – advertising “Music on Main” - \$10,000.00
12. Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center – construction project - \$10,000.00

**Vote on Grants**

- Upon a motion by **Shawn Johnson**, seconded by **Alex Butterbaugh** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **City of Seneca** for **\$8,000.00** for **advertising**.  
Vote was unanimously carried. **Riley Johnson abstained from voting.**
  
- Upon a motion by **Shawn Johnson**, seconded by **Riley Johnson** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **Discover Upcountry Carolina Association** for **\$7,738.00** for **advertising.**  
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Eagles Nest Art Center for \$1,000.00 for advertising.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Gateway Arts Council for \$1,000.00 for advertising.  
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina for \$2,500.00 for an archaeological dig.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee Chamber of Commerce for \$5,000.00 for staffing for Visitor Information Center in Westminster.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee Military Museum for \$3,790.00 for window replacement.  
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to SC Apple Festival for \$4,972.00 for advertising.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to The Foothills Agricultural Resource Marketing Center for \$6,000.00 for installation of safety lighting.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shane Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Walhalla Performing Arts Center for \$10,000.00 for advertising the 2023 season.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Westminster Music Centre for \$6,000.00 for advertising "Music on Main".  
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center for \$3,500.00 for construction project.  
Vote was unanimously carried.

**PRT Action Item**

1. Mr. Crappie Classic Invitational Qualifier – Lake Hartwell (Seneca Creek) – May 19-20, 2023 - \$14,000.00
2. Hustler lawnmower - \$11,326.00 – South Cove

**Vote on Action Item**

- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Visit Oconee for \$14,000.00 for Mr. Crappie Classic Invitational Qualifier.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Riley Johnson, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee PRT (South Cove) for \$11,326.00 for Hustler lawnmower.  
Vote was unanimously carried.

Next scheduled meeting of the PRT Commission is **May 4, 2023, at 12:00 pm** in **County Council Chambers**

**Meeting Dates:**

May 4, 2023	Business Meeting
August 17, 2023	Review Grants
August 24, 2023	Vote on Grants
November 16, 2023	Business Meeting

**Grants for the Fall cycle will be due August 15, 2023, by 3:00 pm.**

**Adjourn**

As there was no further business, Shawn Johnson, so moved to adjourn at 1:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Shirley  
Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism