

FINAL MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY PRT COMMISSION
August 31, 2023
County Council Chambers 12:00 pm

Members present: Shawn Johnson, Kevin Cope, Trey Barnett, Kevin Evans,
& Shane Smith

Guests present: Dari McBride & Mark Thompson

Also present: Phil Shirley, PRT Director, Ken Sloan, Visit Oconee Director
& Mandy Holbrooks, PRT Secretary

Call to Order

Shawn Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of May 4, 2023, by Kevin Evans,
seconded by Shane Smith. Vote was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Shirley presented the treasurer's report. Balance as of August 31, 2023,
Local ATAX is \$133,281.00 and State ATAX is \$223,162.48.

Presentation of Grants

1. City of Seneca – advertising Half Marathon & 5K - \$10,000.00
2. City of Westminster – downtown signage - \$12,000.00
3. Devil's Fork State Park – standard site impact pad restoration- \$7,500.00
4. Discover Upcountry Carolina Association – advertising - \$20,000.00
5. Downtown Seneca Merchants Association – advertising - \$1,800.00
6. Eagles Nest Art Center – advertising - \$3,000.00
7. Main Street Walhalla – seasonal brochures - \$5,160.00
8. Oconee County Chamber of Commerce – staffing, expansion & relocation for
Visitor Information Center - \$15,000.00
9. South Carolina Bigfoot Festival – advertising - \$5,000.00
10. Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail – promotion of UHQT (rack cards & website) &
interpretive signage - \$1,862.00
11. Walhalla Performing Arts Center – advertising fall & winter 2023 season -
\$15,000.00
12. Westminster Music Centre – advertising Music on Main - \$10,000.00
13. Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center – procure materials for finishing
restroom/kitchen - \$9,988.00

Vote on Grants

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Shane Smith and carried,
the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to
City of Seneca for \$6,500.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried,
the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to
City of Westminster for \$6,500.00 for downtown signage.
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Devils Fork State Park for \$6,000.00 for standard site impact pad restoration. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Discover Upcountry Carolina Association for \$7,000.00 for advertising. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Downtown Seneca Merchants Association for \$1,000.00 for advertising. Vote was unanimously carried. Kevin Cope abstained from voting.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Shane Smith and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Eagles Nest Art Center for \$1,500.00 for advertising. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Main Street Walhalla for \$1,000.00 for seasonal brochures. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee County Chamber of Commerce for \$9,000.00 for staffing, expansion & relocation of Visitor Information Center. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Shane Smith and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to South Carolina Bigfoot Festival for \$2,000.00 for advertising. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail for \$1,000.00 for promotion of UHQT & interpretive signage. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Walhalla Performing Arts Center for \$9,000.00 for advertising the 2023 fall & winter season. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Westminster Music Centre for \$5,000.00 for advertising. Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center for \$4,500.00 for procuring materials to finish kitchen/restroom. Vote was unanimously carried.

PRT Action Item

- Upon a motion by Kevin Evans, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee County PRT for \$4,000.00 for 7'x14' Tandem Utility Trailer. Vote was unanimously carried.

Next meeting is November 30, 2023, in Council Chambers beginning at 12:00.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Shawn Johnson made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Phil Shirley
Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism