Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority (TCTDA)
Board Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2026

Minutes

Board Members Present: Jessica Whitmire, Lauren Wise, Madeline Magin, Nory LeBrun, Dana Antonuccio, Catherine Lemel, Larry Chapman
Board Members Absent: Dionne Hodgson, Emerie Carlton-Jackson
Staff: Clark Lovelace, Mollie Gordon, Jody McNiel, Mark Johnson (Zoom), Julie Hooten (Zoom)
Members of Public: None

Call to Order

I. Welcome
Board Chair, Jessica Whitmire, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and noted a quorum.

II. Public Comment
No members of the public were present.

III. Agenda Modifications
Larry made a motion to accept the agenda modifications as presented. With a second from Nory, the motion unanimously passed.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from May 28, 2026, Board Meeting
B. FY26 Financials (as of May 31, 2026)
C. FY26 Grant Funding List
D. Contracts

Catherine made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a second by Larry. With all in favor, the motion passed.

V. Presentations

A. Economic Development Update – Burton Hodges, Transylvania Economic Alliance

Burton Hodges, Executive Director of the Transylvania Economic Alliance, presented an economic development update, including the Ecusta site's development potential, ownership and testing challenges, projected job creation, the proposed downtown hotel, Pisgah Labs, Sylvan Valley Industrial Center, and other recent initiatives.

B. Director's Report – Clark Lovelace

Executive Director Clark Lovelace provided the Director's Report, which included updates on the July committee and Board schedules, annual contracts, tentative board agendas for the remainder of the year, and a few notes on the year-to-date financials

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss. No action was taken.

VII. New Business

A. FY26 Audit Contract

Clark noted that this was added as an agenda item at the recommendation of Finance Director Meagan O'Neal. He provided some background on annual audits performed by Martin Starnes & Associates. He then gave an update on the tentative plans for the FY26 audit and the need for Jessica to act on the board's behalf in July. Following discussion, Dana made a motion to allow the chair to review and sign an audit contract following consultation with the finance director and executive director. With a second from Catherine, and all in favor, the motion passed.

B. Funding Request – Town of Rosman (Rosman Riverfront Park)

Jessica noted that the Town of Rosman funding request was reviewed by both the Destination Infrastructure Committee (DIC) and the Transylvania Always Committee (TAC), as the project aligns with the priorities of both committees. She then asked Clark to review the particulars. Clark reviewed detailed slides covering the specifics of the request and the committee motions. Following discussion, Madeline seconded the committee motion to provide $30,000 in DI funding, to be funded through available FY26 year-end funds, with any remaining amount coming from FY27. With all in favor, the motion passed. Jessica then seconded the committee motion to provide $57,000 in TA funding, to be funded through available FY26 year-end funds, with any remaining amount coming from FY27. With all in favor, the motion passed.

C. Funding Request – FIND Outdoors (Hurricane Helene Statue Walk)

Clark shared a slide covering the particulars of the request and the DIC motion. Following a few questions, Dana seconded the committee motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Funding Request – Heart of Brevard (250th Celebration)

Clark reminded of the $10,000 that the board set aside to support local tourism-related 250th celebration efforts. Associated grant requests have been reviewed by either the grant committee or the board, depending on the circumstances. He covered a slide containing the details of the request. Larry made a motion to approve the requested $1,350 to Heart of Brevard for the event, seconded by Madeline. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Public Comment

No members of the public are present.

IX. Board Member Comments

Board members' comments included updates and discussion regarding the Transylvania Heritage Museum, the Old Courthouse, newly opened Bracken Mountain trails, the NCDOT downtown transportation study, and ongoing parking study and survey efforts.

Adjournment

Jessica indicated that the July meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on August 27, at 8:30am. With a motion from Dana and a second from Catherine, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jody McNiel.

Advance notice of all meetings has been provided and all TCTDA are open to the public.
A schedule of meetings and minutes can be found at **https://explorebrevard.com/tct/meeting-schedule-and-minutes/**