



BRBA Membership Minutes - June 26, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by President Lynda Thompson

Introduction of new members Carol and Carlos Martel

There were no minutes of our May meeting to approve.

Treasurers Report is attached to these minutes.

Tourism Committee Report:

- Rafting groups reporting slow start to the season due to rain and cool temps
- Zip Lines report heavy traffic
- Tri-Cities Business Association:
- Fireworks will be July 3rd, downtown McCaysville
- Community Yard Sale will be Saturday, Aug 9th from 9 to 4

Blue and Bar-B-Q - September 19th and 20th

Blue Ridge Lodging Association and the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce is please to present the 4th Annual Blue Ridge Blues & BBQ Festival to take place Sept 20th from 12p-9p. They will also bring back the popular Blues Crawl on Friday night 9/19 that will include live music and special menus at seven different downtown restaurants. The Rotary will coincide their annual train ride fundraiser to be the eighth Crawl location.

Something new this year - take the official Festival rack card to the Crawl locations and get the venue to punch out their star. Bring fully punched card to the Festival on Saturday and get in free.

BRLA Expects over 10,000 attendees this year.

Band lineup will include: Ray Fuller and the BluesRockers, Rollin' Bones, Barry Darnell and the Mobile Slim Band, Samantha Gray and The Soul Providers and Frankie's Blues Mission

Old Timers Parade

is coming together quite nicely. For more information go to:
<http://bestofblueridge.biz/old-timers-parade/>

Chamber News:

- Wall Street Journal Article ranked Blue Ridge, Ga 5th as a place to retire. Prescott, Az was ranked #1.
- Trip Advisor Ranked Blue Ridge 8th as a place to retire.'
- Tuesday, July 8th is Business After Hours at the Kiwanis Club. 5 pm
- Train:
- Sunday departure time change departing at 11 am and returning at 2 pm has been a great benefit to downtown shops. Visitors now have time to shop after their train ride.
- Christmas in July will be the 3rd weekend in July. Any merchants wanting to participate can print flyers and Tim will pass out to passengers.
- Nootoola Creek Farms
 - Now has an archery range with 3-D targets
 - They have hosted the Pro Fly Angler Club in Colorado.
- Light Up Blue Ridge:
 - Planning has started and going well. Quinn is looking for a very large Christmas tree and already talking to a couple Santa possibilities.
 - Her goal is to return Light Up Blue Ridge to the "Old Fashion, Small Town Celebration" is used to be.

BRBA web site:

Pam Fink walked the members through how to submit their business listing on the BRBA web site.

- Go to: <http://bestofblueridge.biz/>
- Click on "Current Members"
- Click on "Submit A Listing"
- Fill in each box
- Submit and you are DONE!

Nominating Committee is:

June Slusser
Sarah Auman
Bill Hammond

Perspective new board members must have their bios to the nominating committee by Monday, July 21st at 5:00 pm.

Public Bathrooms:

Due to the fact that we are fully in season for now we are going to clean up the bathrooms but no construction will take place until at least after season.

Bylaws:

The board has spend several months reviewing and editing our current bylaws and submitted to the membership for comments. Decision regarding approval of revised bylaws will happen at the next membership meeting.

Major changes include:

- Dues will no longer be for a calendar year but rather on the anniversary of when a member joined the association.
- Board term was and is 2 years, revision outlines which office expires on what year.
- Simplified the nominating process.
- Removed the exact number of board members and changed to “a number deemed necessary by the current board”.
- Past President was given voting privileges.

Announcements:

- Fannin Chamber of Commerce has given us \$3,500 towards the cost of printing our 2014 Walking Maps.
 - You can pick up a box of maps at L & L Beanery
- There will be a car show at the DQ Friday, June 27th starting at 6 pm
- Good Samaritans 5th Sunday Brunch is June 29th at the Senior Center from 8 an to 1:30 pm
- David Goodspeed shared his blue prints for upgrading the public bathrooms.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm