

DATE – July 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE

☒ Cheryl Cook	☒ Andy Spradley	☒ Bill Van Lew	☒ Mary McBride
☒ LeeAnn Lyon	☒ Carolyn Habib	☒ Lathan Mills	☒ Crissy Martin
☒ Amanda Rainwater			

DISCUSSION

- 2 Tickets from NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores
 - Received after 2026 auction, tickets will expire in April 2027. What to do with them?
- LeeAnn suggested fundraising nights at local restaurants - pick a day they normally aren't busy, advertise, bring in business, and receive a percentage of sales. Requires low effort, it's not time consuming, and has potential for greater profit long term
 - Good idea and still a possibility, but board is choosing to try auction once more in 2027 before thinking of changing the event

AUCTION REVIEW

- Concerns from board and possible solutions
 - Not making enough profit for as much time and energy that's put into the event
 - Focus on lowering costs, get more sponsors, divide responsibilities
 - Many of the board members don't have time and/or don't feel comfortable soliciting businesses for donations
 - All board members need to support and partake in the event and get donations
 - We have the same items being donated each year and the same people attending the event, so bidding has decreased
 - Focus on soliciting new businesses and artists, add IPAs to attract new attendees
- Food and drink
 - People love the catered food
 - We'll add IPAs this year, so wine and IPAs
 - Sticking with Diamond Catering. Ask for a suggested menu based on new needs - cheaper, more casual, pair well with wine and IPAs
- Not enough parking at 801, but we can't control that
 - Partner with a local golf cart business, name them as an event sponsor, use golf carts as a shuttle option to deal with parking spaces
- Sponsors
 - We need more to cover initial costs
 - Only give 2 free tickets to encourage them to buy more
 - Start looking for sponsors now
- Location and date
 - 801 has changed rates
 - April 1 - October 31, in season rate, \$100/hr weekday, \$150/hr weekend
 - November 1 - March 31, off season rate, \$50/hr weekday, \$100/hr weekend
 - Can we still set up the day before? Will we have to pay for that day?

- 2027 dates
 - First choice - March 6th (off season rate)
 - Second choice - April 10th (in season rate)
- Responsibilities
 - Everything can't fall on one or two people again. Responsibilities will be shared this year.
 - Cheryl
 - Permits
 - Contracts
 - Printing
 - Caterer
 - Carolyn
 - Event flyers
 - Social media ads
 - Auction program
 - Event program
 - Bill
 - Donation catalog
 - ...
 - LeeAnn
 - Bid sheets
 - ...
 - Mary
 - Social media posts
 - ...
 - Lathan
 - Collect gift cards
 - ...
 - Andy
 - ...
 - ...
 - Crissy
 - ...
 - ...
 - Amanda
 - ...
 - ...
- Theme
 - Need a theme for 2027 auction that will encompass wine and IPAs - come to next meeting with ideas

COMING EVENTS

- Farmers Market – July 13
- Aquarium Summer Series – July 9, August 13

ADJOURN. Next monthly ZOOM meeting - July 21st, 2026 at 7pm