

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL JOINT SESSION –SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 5:30p.m., at the Marion Community Building.

**Members Present**

Tony Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

**Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Ronald Harmon, Asst. County Manager for Community Development; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Marion City Council members and staff; Town of Old Fort Alderman Stafford and staff; Tourism Development Authority (TDA) members and staff; other economic development stakeholders

**Call to Order**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**TDA Master Plan**

Mr. Eric Woolridge, President and Director of Planning for Destination by Design, presented a 15-year Master Plan to better market the local community as a destination for tourist. Proposed capitol projects for downtown Marion, Old Fort and Little Switzerland was presented, as well as ways to brand McDowell to tourist. The new logo presented for McDowell County was "Blue Ridge Mountain Wonderland." The Town of Old Fort suggested logo was "Pisgah First."

One of the recommendations was for improving the flow of traffic in and around the McDowell House at the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway.

After discussion the consensus of the group was to have two members from the Board of Commissioners, City Council, Town Aldermen, Chamber of Commerce, and TDA to form a steering committee to identify a project and funding sources.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion at 7:15pm to recess to Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 11:30am in the Commissioner's Board Room at 60 E Court Street, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

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Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

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Tony G. Brown, Chairman