

The Anson Record

and The Messenger and Intelligencer

TDA discusses revenues, local events

September 9, 2010

By Justin Allen

While a quorum was absent, the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) did discuss several issues in a meeting Wednesday.

Members jumped from topic to topic.

Chairwoman Nancy Cornwell said the group needed to set a limit for revenues that can be spent.

"We're being nickel and dimed to death for our money," she said of the requests from groups for assistance in endeavors that might attract tourists.

Tourism director Dave Smith said he was interested in seeing if the county would donate land for a disc golf course. "This is huge," he said.

Disc golf is a game where players throw a frisbee into a basket or at a target. Players try to get the lowest number of throws on each hole, similar to golf.

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge manager J.D. Bricken said the recently paved paths at the Refuge were attracting visitors.

"We have a lot of people actually buying bikes just to ride on it," he said.

Chamber of Commerce director Lynn Edwards asked Bricken to work with her on listing all of the Refuge's events on the Chamber's online calendar.

A better-known destination for bikers, the annual Discover Anson bike ride, might get a makeover. Smith said he doesn't like the name.

"Discover Anson doesn't have any pizzazz," he said.

Representatives from the Carolina Thread Trail have approached the organization to ask for a resolution of support. However, without a quorum no votes could be taken.

The Thread Trail would create a network of trails and waterways in the region.

There were skeptics though.

Bricken said he did not think a contiguous trail was realistic because of private property. He said many farm owners, like himself, would not want people crossing over their property.

Cornwell told members to think about topics that would be discussed at the next meeting.

She wants to create a slogan for the TDA. She also asked members to think of attractions in the area so the group could choose one or several to focus support.

"What have we got to sell?" she asked.

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