

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial and Community Club Meeting on June 28th, 2005

The Cowan Commercial and Community Club met on June 28th at the Franklin-Pearson House. The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with 17 people in attendance.

The Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$1,774 in our account with the latest expense being the ~~\$250~~ scholarship paid to the local 4-H Club.

The first item of discussion was a report by the President of the emerging South Cumberland Heritage Corridor, of which Cowan will be a member. This will give Cowan access to new resources, grants, and ideas for developing and promoting the cultural and economic health of the community and the greater area. It was noted at an informational meeting of the Heritage Corridor that Cowan is the "poster child" of the corridor. Member verbally expressed support for the idea and asked that a representative be sent to attend a future CCCC meeting.

Progress is being made of Cowan's application for a tourism grant to print new brochures. On that note, the State Commissioner of Tourism is coming to Cowan in the coming week to see the progress this town has made on developing the tourism industry.

Pat Underwood, President of the Franklin County Arts Guild gave a presentation announcing that the Guild has made Cowan their new home. Cowan Development Company has made an office space available for the Guild and plans are being developed to make an art center, most likely using the old First Baptist Church property. In the near future, the Guild will sponsor workshops, festivals, and other activities in Cowan as part of their overall program.

Sally Thomas presented the idea of inviting a gospel group to perform in Cowan not only for their own testimony, but to hear the miraculous stories that people in our community have experienced. A motion was made by Mildred Hatchett that Commercial Club agree to sponsor such an event. The motion was seconded and accepted by voice vote.

Speed Baranco made a brief presentation of the effort he is making to bring a bicycle race into the area, similar to the Tour de Georgia that has been an enormous success. Commercial Club members expressed support for the idea and discussed ways that we could cater to the visitors for such as that.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for July 25th.