

# MINUTES OF THE HATTIESBURG TOURISM COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS & MANAGEMENT

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Minutes of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board Members of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission of the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, held at the Lake Terrace Convention Center on:

**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Be it remembered that on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, the Board Members of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission met in a regular meeting at the Lake Terrace Convention Center, being a place fixed by law for such meetings. The meeting was called to order at **12:03 p.m.** by Frank James, Chairman of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission. The following Members of the Board were found to be present:

**PRESENT**

Shelia Varnado  
Frank James  
Marshall Bell  
Anthony Harris

**ABSENT**

Bonnie Warren  
Bud Kirkpatrick, HCC Liaison

**ALSO PRESENT**

Richard Taylor, Management  
Jessica Cathey, Administration  
Danielle Herrington, Administration  
Marlo Dorsey, Administration  
Raven Brooks, Administration

*The meeting began with all informational items due to the fact that quorum had not been met.*

## **Old Business**

Rick Taylor gave the Board an update regarding the purchasing of the home of Osceola McCarty. He stated that the Commission and the current homeowner have reached an agreement to pay a total of \$39,000 for the home and \$1,000 to go towards past due ad valorem real property taxes now owed on the property. He added that he has received a \$10,000 estimate for the cost to relocate the home. The asbestos abatement has been completed and the Director of Facility Services has proposed a plan to move the home downtown. He has also began discussions to place the home between The African American Military History Museum and The Eureka School on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that this location will be optimum due to its relationship to The Longleaf Trace and the availability of parking.

Rick Taylor informed the Board that several cycling writers came through Hattiesburg during the MS Cycling Familiarization Tour. The cyclists rode the Longleaf Trace and toured Hattiesburg before traveling on to the Gulf Coast. The Marketing Department received positive comments as well as feedback on the marketing of retail spots.

*Quorum was met at 12:32 p.m. with the arrival of the Vice-Chairman.*

## **New Business**

Marlo Dorsey reminded the Board about the Shining Star Banquet scheduled for Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and gave a brief overview of the activities scheduled for the week.

Rick Taylor requested that the Board support the Hattiesburg Alliance for Public Arts with the customary sponsorship of \$12,000. Upon motion made by Shelia Varnado, duly seconded by Anthony Harris and after a full discussion, the request was accepted as presented.

## **Financial Report**

Rick Taylor presented the FYE 2017 lodging tax receipts and presented the financial reports, including the current Claims Docket and budget. He reported that the year-to-date lodging tax revenue was running 5.3% above the same period of the prior year. Upon motion made by Shelia Varnado and duly seconded by Marshall Bell, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote to approve the Claims Docket and Financial Reports as given.

Danielle Herrington gave an update to the Board regarding Hattiesburg Tourism Commission Financial Holdings. She discussed the comprehensive budget and explained that the budget would need to be amended when the next fiscal year's budget is presented. She further explained that she plans to adjust the Sponsorship portion of the budget to remove all Miss Hospitality monies and update the cash portion.

## **Minutes from Previous Board Meetings**

Upon motion made by Anthony Harris, duly seconded by Marshall Bell and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote of the Board to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting.

## **Call for Other New Business**

There was no call for other new business to discuss at this meeting.

## **Operational Report**

**Legal Report** There were no legal matters to report at this meeting.

**Management Report** Rick Taylor reported on pertinent activities and operational data regarding the various projects and facilities of the Commission. Such discussion included status reports on the Convention Center, Saenger Theatre, the Visitors Center, African-American Military History Museum, Hattiesburg Zoo, Eureka School.

With no other activities to report, upon motion made by Clyde Bryant, duly seconded by Charlie Jones, and with unanimous approval of members present, the meeting of the Hattiesburg Convention Commission was adjourned.

**Hattiesburg Tourism Commission**

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Frank James, Board Chair

**Attested:**



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Richard Taylor, Executive Director