

MINUTES OF THE HATTIESBURG TOURISM COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS & MANAGEMENT

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:

December 21, 2016

Be it remembered that on the 21st day of December, 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 **11:50 a.m.** by Shelia Varnado, Vice Chairman of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission. The following Members of the Board were found to be present:

PRESENT

Shelia Varnado
Cathie Price
Frank James
Marshall Bell
Bonnie Warren
Anthony Harris

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

Richard Taylor, Management
Bud Kirkpatrick, HCC Liaison
Jessica Cathey, Administration
Marlo Dorsey, Sales and Marketing Department

Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

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

Financial Report

Rick Taylor presented a discussion of the FYE 2016 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 .09% below the same period of the prior year. Upon motion made by Shelia Varnado and duly seconded by Anthony Harris, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote to approve the Claims Docket and Financial Reports as given.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss at this meeting.

New Business

Rick Taylor informed the Board that the Tourism Audit would be presented at the next Board Meeting.

Rick Taylor informed the Board that the lighting of the Rails to Trails Extension sponsorship in the amount of \$25,000 would be presented to the City of Hattiesburg early in 2017.

Call for Other New Business

Rick Taylor informed the Board that he was investigating whether or not it would be economical for the Convention Commission to purchase the home of Osceola McCarty for the purposes of creating a museum. He has solicited CC Attorney Carey Varnado to find further information about the current owner of the property. Attorney Varnado was able to make contact with the owner and will have more information soon.

Rick gave the Board a brief update of the funds allocated for the Science Center. He is working with architect Larry Albert to write a RFP regarding the next steps to proceed with consulting for the Science Center.

With no other activities to report, upon a motion made by Bonnie Warren and duly seconded by Marshall Bell, and with unanimous approval of the members present, the meeting of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission was adjourned.

Hattiesburg Tourism Commission

Frank James, Board Chair

Attested:

Richard Taylor, Executive Director