

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:

February 24, 2016

Be it remembered that on the 24th day of February, 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 Marshall Bell, Chairman of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission. The following Members of the Board were found to be present:

PRESENT

Marshall Bell
Cathie Price
Bonnie Warren
Anthony Harris
Frank James

ABSENT

Shelia Varnado

ALSO PRESENT

Bud Kirkpatrick, HCC Liaison
Richard Taylor, Management
Jessica Cathey, Administration
Matthew Godfrey, Sales and Marketing Department
LaRaven Brooks, Sales and Marketing Department

The Members of the Tourism Commission Board recognized and applauded Chairman Marshall Bell, who was selected as the Jessie L. Brown Lodge No. 1450, 17th Annual Black History Banquet Honoree for 2016 for his legacy of leadership and community service in Hattiesburg.

Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

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

Financial Report

Doug King presented the FYE 2015 Annual Audit. He stated that the unqualified audit showed the reporting of financial matters to be accurate and he did not have any recommendations at this time. After detailed discussion, a motion was made by Cathie Price, duly seconded by Bonnie Warren to accept the Annual Audit.

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

4.4% above the same period of the prior year. During discussion Rick Taylor noted that expenditures for capital improvements at the Visitors Center included two new monitors (one in the Conference Room and another in the Visitor Information area) as well as the need to replace the four picnic tables outside the Visitors Center. He noted that these expenditures are within the financial capacity of the Commission, but would necessitate amending the current budget to reflect these items. He recommended that the proposed amendments be handled closer to the end of the fiscal year. Upon motion made by Cathie Price and duly seconded by Bonnie Warren, 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 FestivalSouth and Live @ Five each sought increased support for this year's functions. Rick discussed each event and the requests and recommended that Live @ Five be increased by \$1,300 to include Annual Sponsorship and one Hburg Tourism Encore performance each Spring. He also recommended that Hburg Tourism move from in-kind only sponsorship of Festival South to \$5,000 specifically for marketing in out-of-town markets. Upon motion made by Frank James and duly seconded by Anthony Harris, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote to approve the sponsorships.

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

Hattiesburg Tourism Commission

Marshall Bell, Board Chair

Attested:

Richard Taylor, Executive Director