

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:

June 22, 2016

Be it remembered that on the 22nd day of June, 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 **11:36 a.m.** by Marshall Bell, Chairman of the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission. The following Members of the Board were found to be present:

PRESENT

Shelia Varnado
Cathie Price
Anthony Harris
Marshall Bell
Bonnie Warren

ABSENT

Frank James

ALSO PRESENT

Richard Taylor, Management
Jessica Cathey, Administration
Danielle Herrington, Administration
Matthew Godfrey, Sales and Marketing Department
Jennifer Parsons, Miss Hospitality Coordinator

Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

Upon motion made by Cathy Price, duly seconded by Shelia Varnado 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 2.5% above the same period of the prior year. Upon motion made by Bonnie Warren and duly seconded by Shelia Varnado, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote to approve the Claims Docket and Financial Reports as given.

Old Business

Jennifer Parsons informed the board that the Miss Hospitality Pageant has 27 contestants from surrounding counties including Perry, Neshoba and Oktibbeha. The Pageant Orientation is scheduled for June 4, 2016. The contestants will check-in at Century Park at the University of Southern Mississippi on July 18th and the pageant will be held at the

Saenger Theater on July 22-23rd. Jennifer added that she is still collecting sponsorship donations and that tickets have gone on sale. She also informed the Board that a \$5,000 scholarship was given to Erin Morgan, Former 2015 Miss Hospitality, to be used for Physical Therapy School instead of the usual inclusion of the Pageant Winner at the Mississippi Picnic in Central Park each June.

Rick Taylor updated the Board on the status of the Science Center. He added that the next phase would be to hire a consultant, and possibly develop an Advisory Board for consultation of the center's development.

Rick Taylor invited the Board to attend the Tourism Partners Social on June 23, 2016 at Branch. He explained that the Tourism Commission customarily has met each quarter with hotels only, but was expanding its outreach to include hotels, restaurants, shops, and other tourism-interested entities.

New Business

Rick Taylor announced that he is participating in the development of a Bike Share Program in the City of Hattiesburg. He explained to the Board that the system would be set-up through a cellphone application that will allow participants to request and return bikes at specified locations using a tech-on-bike system. He provided a summary of the interested organizations in this program including the City of Hattiesburg, USM, WCU, Forrest General, HHDA and others.

Rick updated the Board on the Ropes Course and that the current stage was core sampling of the soil and installation of the footers for the attraction. Material for the course should arrive on July 8, 2016 with an anticipated opening in August of 2016.

Rick Taylor informed the Board upon the suggestion of Larry Albert, that the Convention Commission bid the entire last phase of the Eureka Museum project instead of taking action now to climate control in the building. He added that there would not be much work left to be completed after the heating ventilation and air conditioning has been installed and the cost to remobilize would be great. Larry feels that tempering the building can occur prior to this winter.

With no other activities to report, upon a motion made by Cathy Price and duly seconded by Bonnie Warren, 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