

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:

October 26, 2016

Be it remembered that on the 26th day of October, 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 **11:35 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
Frank James
Marshall Bell
Bonnie Warren

ABSENT

Anthony Harris

ALSO PRESENT

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

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

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 2.4% 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

There was no old business to discuss at this meeting.

New Business

Rick Taylor informed the Board that Erik Eaves and Chris Lee have completed the steel rod sculpture of "Tigger" to be placed near the patio of the Tiger Board Walk. Rick Taylor proposed that the 2016 Zoo Special Project/Art Reserve Fund be used to pay for the installation of this piece in the amount of \$15,000. Upon motion made by Shelia Varnado, duly seconded by Bonnie Warren, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote of the Board to fund the Tigger sculpture with the Zoo Special Projects Reserve.

Rick Taylor proposed that the Board provide funding for the lighting of the Rails to Trails Extension in the amount of \$25,000. Upon motion made by Cathie Price, duly seconded by Marshall Bell, and after a full discussion, there was a unanimous favorable vote of the Board to fund the Rails for Trails Extension in the amount of \$25,000 from the Civic Projects Reserve.

Call for Other New Business

Bonnie Warren congratulated Rick Taylor as the recipient of the 2016 Hub Award.

Upon motion by Frank James, duly seconded by Cathie Price, there was a unanimous favorable vote to enter Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters. During the Executive Session upon motion by Cathie Price, duly seconded by Shelia Varnado, there was a unanimous favorable vote to contract for legal representation on a retainer basis. Rick Taylor was instructed to interview and retain a firm that would be able to attend the meetings of the Board regularly and advise on legal matters. Upon motion by Bonnie Warren, duly seconded by Marshall Bell, there was a unanimous favorable vote to exit Executive Session.

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