

Benton County Tourism and Recreation Corporation

March 21, 2019 -Warsaw Community Building Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

Susan Kyle
Tim Blankinship
Christine Letcher
Suzie Brodersen

Mary Donnell Brown
Ken Beyer
Jessica Kendall

Lynette Stokes, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m.

Minutes from January 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed and motion was made for acceptance by Blankinship and seconded by Letcher. The motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative matters were discussed such as non-paying lodging updates and collection efforts to-date, proposed revisions to the current County Guest Tax Ordinance, and board terms ending in October of 2019. Brodersen and Kendall indicated they would like to stay on for another term, pending Board approval. Donnell-Brown and Beyer indicated they would be stepping off but Beyer said he will speak to Cathy Beyer about her interest in taking his place, pending Board Approval. Reynolds lack of attendance was discussed and not meeting the ByLaw requirement of attending a majority of the meetings. Motion was made to remove Reynolds by Donnell-Brown and seconded by Kyle. The motion was unanimously approved.

Stokes' 2018 bonus per the Independent Contract was discussed and motion was made to pay out the bonus of 50% above \$50,000 using the gross lodging tax received from the County Collector for the period of January 1-December 31, 2018. Any past-due revenue generated from the lodging tax received in 2019 for the 2018 fiscal year will be paid during the 2019 fiscal year. Motion was made by Beyer and seconded by Blankinship to approve the commission for the 2018 term as proposed. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Financials were reviewed for the period January 23, 2019 through March 21, 2019 and a motion was made to accept the financials as presented by Kendall and seconded by Beyer. The motion was unanimously approved.

The 2019 Budget revisions were also reviewed. No motion was required.

There were updates given by Stokes regarding past and upcoming events and efforts including the Building Local Prosperity Program updates and outcomes, Pubs and Poker event, St Louis Sports Show, MO Sports Travel Exchange Profile Sheet, CBG Festival and BBQ Competition in August, Meet the Tourism Board tentatively scheduled for May 9th, Board bios and photos for the website, MDT Tourism Regional Meeting on March 18 and potential MDT visit for 2019, status of the BCTR website, welcome center mailings, press/media tour and the 2019 new marketing video.

Under Other Business, Brodersen brought up the BLP seminar, and the strong emphasis on the hiring of a county-wide economic developer. With this hire, some county and city funds may be stretched in order to include that additional cost into their budgets. Brodersen stated it would be important for us to keep that in mind moving forward as it is possible some of our funding could be cut (at least in the short term) to free up funds for this new position. Some discussion was

held around the possible need to cut grants from the budget starting in 2020 along with looking at requesting a bed tax increase and working with the lodges to raise their base rates.

Osage Lakes Greenway Updates were given regarding the Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission efforts on the mapping for the Butterfield Connection Route.

The next Commission meeting will be held on **May 16, 2019 at 4pm** at the Warsaw Community Building (Council Chambers).

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p,m, with a motion by Kendall and seconded by Donnell-Brown.

Lynette Stokes, Executive Director