

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020

The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, Paula Wallace, Vice-Chair, Travis Wilson, Krystal Baugher, Nicole Stevenson and Susan Caron. Absent: Laurel Ladewig. Also, present: Susan Wettstein, Director of Community Development, Kris Hix, Administrative Assistant/Chamber Director, and City Manager, Chris Weiner

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Paula Wallace to approve the minutes from May 7, 2020. Motion seconded by Susan Caron. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Financial Report

The cash balance of the Transient Guest Tax Fund as of May 31, 2020 is \$56,135.04. This is after receiving the second quarter TGT disbursement in the amount of \$4,583.23. The remaining budget balance for the local grants is \$4,156.19.

New Business

Discussion of TGT funding and how with additional requests coming in, the possibility of going over budget is significant. Some funding may be less than the original request. The board is waiting to hear from BPW and the Anderson County Fair Board at this time on the status of their requests due to COVID-19. Other entities that may submit TGT requests (if funds are available) are the Greeley Smoke Off, the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce 50th Annual Christmas Parade, and the Friends of the Library Holiday Homes Tour.

TGT-A request has been made by Cornstock Board to shift advertising funds to a different vendor. A motion was made by Travis Wilson to approve the shift of funds. Motion was seconded by Nicole Stevenson. Motion Passed (6-0).

TGT- A request was made by The Chamber Players Community Theatre to shift funds to a different vendor. The Chamber Players received a grant and felt the funds could be utilized in a different area. Nicole Stevenson made a motion to approve the shift of funds. The motion was seconded by Paula Wallace. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

It was the consensus by the Committee to approve the requests to shift funds per Requirement 5 of the Transient Guest Tax Guidelines: "No entity may receive transient guest tax funds more than once in a calendar year. However, realizing unique circumstances may arise, this policy is subject to change at the committee's discretion."

TGT Application - Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival submitted their application for TGT Funding in the amount of \$7,055. The board discussed the application in length, due to the Transient Guest Tax budget not having enough money to fund the whole amount requested, with additional requests possibly on the horizon. Discussion was that we don't know the amount yet to reimburse BPW and the Fair Association is meeting this evening to discuss the carnival and other aspects of the fair. When subtracting the total \$7,055 from the budget balance remaining for local grants, there would be a \$2,898.81 shortfall. Nicole Stevenson made a motion to approve \$4,500, to include \$1,500 in Facebook advertising and \$3,000 for the National Publications as shown in the application, and if the City Commissioners are willing to approve allocating the remainder of the funds request out of the reserve funds, those in favor of this motion approve. Motion was seconded by Travis Wilson. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Old Business

Strategic Plan- Tabled until July. The board agreed to wait until after Commission sets the yearly budget to further discuss strategic plan.

The board discussed their 2021 budget. The Committee asked City Manager Weiner questions regarding the possibility of increasing the TGT for local grants in next year's budget. With the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Weiner feels the numbers could be significantly different. It was discussed whether requesting an increase in budget, if only for the next year, and then return to previous amount.

Staff Reports

Staff reports were shared with the board. There were no questions or comments.

Susan Wettstein reported that she had communication with the Garnett Enduro Kart Club about the condition of the North Lake Road, and how if repairs weren't made, that would be unable to continue to have their events here. It was discussed as to whether TGT Funds could be used to assist in covering the cost of these repairs, since this road and park facility is used to attract visitors and event participants to Garnett. Susan will see if some cost estimates can be requested on these repairs to present at July's meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Travis Wilson and seconded by Paula Wallace. Motion passed unanimously (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Hix, City Administrative Assistant.

