

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2020

The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, Paula Wallace, Vice-Chair, Travis Wilson, Krystal Baugher (via phone), Laurel Ladewig and Nicole Stevenson. Absent: Susan Caron. Also, present: Susan Wettstein, Director of Community Development, and Kris Hix, Administrative Assistant/Chamber Director.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Paula Wallace to approve the minutes from February March 11, 2020. Motion seconded by Travis Wilson. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Financial Report

The cash balance of the Transient Guest Tax Fund ending April 1, 2020 is \$52,826.39. The remaining budget balance for the local grants is \$4,156.19 (\$5, 830.57 if adding back Square Fair funds).

New Business

TGT-A request has been made by Morning Mingle to use funds allotted for Anderson County Area Community News (The Advocate) to be used for radio advertising due the newspaper no longer being in business. Travis Wilson made a motion to approve the funding be used for radio advertising. Laurel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The board discussed the TGT application policy and whether the Committee can recommend applicants be allowed to apply and receiving funding more than one time per year during 2020 due to the special circumstance, COVID-19 pandemic. Susan Wettstein reviewed the application and found that the application states under the Requirements, (5): “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”. The board agreed that COVID-19 qualifies as “unique circumstances” and therefore will consider applications by entities that have already requested funding if they so desire.

Susan Wettstein shared with the board some of the activities going on in Garnett including Community Give Back Program, City of Garnett BINGO, the opening of the Garnett Farmer’s Market season, and Garnett Public Library activities.

Old Business

Strategic Plan: The board discussed the strategic planning for tourism. Susan Wettstein will use the strategic planning meeting summary notes as a guideline, and work on revisions to the TGT

applications. She will present the suggested changes to the application at the next meeting. She will also look at creating a 3 to 5-year plan for tourism, and implementation of the suggestions so that they might be considered during the budgeting process.

Staff Reports

Staff Reports were shared with the board. There were no questions or comments on these reports at this time.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Paula Wallace and seconded by Nicole Stevenson. Motion passed unanimously (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Hix, City Administrative Assistant.