

**Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**December 6, 2017**

The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee met in the Commission Room at Garnett City Hall with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, Susan Caron, Bob Risch and Paula Wallace. Also attending: Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director and Desiree Donovan, Chamber Director/Deputy Director of Community Development. Absent: Travis Wilson, Laurel Ladewig and Nicole Stevenson.

*5:30 p.m. - not enough members present for a quorum. Tom called meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.*

**Positive Tourism Observations:**

Christmas Parade was a big hit. Over 60 entries, more than double of past years.

*Bob Risch arrived at 5:35 p.m.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Susan Caron, seconded by Paula Wallace, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financials:**

Susan presented a Transient Guest Tax Report for November, 2017. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The balance of uncommitted funds was \$17,457.64.

Susan stated that she estimates that we will be over budget this year, but she is not worried about that as there were funds from last year taken out of this year's budget and that City manager Chris Weiner is aware of this. She reminded everyone that in 2018 we would not have that issue as all 2017 grant recipients are planning to submit their After Event Reports before the end of this year.

**Old Business:**

*TGT After Event Reports were emailed out prior to this meeting for committee review.*

*Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival* – Susan informed the board that both the Garnett Inn and Kirk House are already booked for the Lake Grand Prix Revival in 2018. The organization has focused on gaining participants in the past. Next year they will turn their attention towards attracting spectators.

*Anderson County Fair* - In the After Event Report the Fair Association noted an increase in use of City campsites. Susan pulled information from City records that indicate \$788.00 was generated in camping fees during this time. Susan stated that Jess Rockers called and informed her that they are switching

carnival companies and would like to apply for grants again next year. The Fair Board reported high attendance numbers for their Bull Riding Event and they plan to host it again next year.

*Celebrate the book* - 340 people attended this event, 50 were from outside of Garnett and 34 were from outside of Anderson County. The committee reported excitement from those who attended the event.

**New Business:**

*Consideration of Meeting Change:* Susan informed the board that Travis is planning to remain on the board and he can attend meetings on Wednesdays beginning in January. The consensus of the board was to keep the meetings on Wednesdays at the current time.

*2018 Goals:* Tom asked Bob what the possibility was for us to assist the schools with bidding on tournaments. Bob stated that those tournaments are on a rotation.

Tom asked Susan about the Parks and Recreation Department pursuing traveling tournaments. Susan stated that bidding on those tournaments are very expensive, but that we are a member of SportKS in which members are very involved in that process.

Susan informed the committee that the City Manager has asked her to assess our parks and park facilities. She informed the board that the electric department is also in the process of getting a cost estimate for providing more electrical power in the North Lake which would allow more events and activities to be held there.

Susan requested that the committee members provide 3 goals for tourism for 2018. Tom stated that if we are getting people to notice our marketing then it is working. He suggested to survey the public and the stakeholders. Otherwise, the committee was on board with what Susan and Desiree establish as priorities.

Susan stated that she would like a vote on adding a section in the TGT application about the cancellation of events. Tom stated that if the organization, in good faith, attempted to have the event but participation or an act of God prevented the event from happening we should still pay out on that. Bob agreed.

Bob moved to add a section to the TGT application that states, "If an event is cancelled, the transient guest tax fund will reimburse those expenses previously approved in the TGT application as though the event had occurred." Susan Caron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Reports:**

*Reports have been emailed prior to this meeting to committee members.*

Desiree informed everyone about the Annual Banquet and encouraged attendance from the Tourism board. The banquet is January 25, 2018 with guest speaker Kendall Gammon. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$180 for a corporate table of 8.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Bob, seconded by Paula adjourn. Chairman Tom Emerson, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Desiree Donovan.