

Garnett Tourism Committee  
Minutes  
September 7, 2016

The Garnett Tourism Committee met in the Commission Room at Garnett City Hall with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, Cecilia Lamb, Vice Chairman, Nicole Stevenson, Paula Wallace and Travis Wilson, members. Also attending: Joyce Martin, City Manager, Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director and Desiree Donovan, Administrative Assistant/GACC Director. Absent: Susan Caron.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Positive Tourism Observations: Street paving; reservoir road and North Lake Road. Joyce said the Lake Garnett Racing Association is thrilled with the work done at the North Lake.

The "Orbs" at the Donna Harris Memorial Park are pretty. There are 15 orbs hanging in a tree there can be admired there at night. The Walker Art Committee is selling the kits for \$10 each. They will be available at Blackhorse Trading Company and Refined-Recherished. Joyce said that the Walker Art Committee hopes people in the community will purchase the kits and decorate the trees in their neighborhood with them. Other cities have used this as a tourism attraction.

Joyce reported that KS FiberNet is bringing high speed internet by Garnett via US 169. There are 6 business partners; Anderson County Hospital, AuBurn Pharmacy, EKAE, Genco Manufacturing, schools and others interested in this new development and what it can provide for the community. KwiKom and other such communication businesses are interested in tapping onto this to open the opportunity up to residential customers as well.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Cecilia Lamb to approve the minutes of August 3, 2016 as written. Travis Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Travis did notice in Susan's written report for this meeting the word "Forth-nine" and the correction should be made to "Forty-nine".

#### Financial Report

Joyce presented the Transient Guest Tax Report. The balance of uncommitted funds as of August 1, 2016 is \$9,890.79.

#### Old Business:

Geocaching Committee Report - Paula Wallace, Cecilia Lamb, Tom Emerson and Susan Wettstein met on Tuesday, September 6th and determined 3 locations for caches. Paula will complete the planting of the caches and Susan will place the information on geocaching.com. Locations were selected at the Anderson County Historical Museum, the Harris House and Yoder's Country Store. It was suggested that we get magnets with our website to place inside the containers so that visitors can take them. The Committee discussed encouraging geocaching in the schools; perhaps the 7th Grade Class through their study of Kansas history. Nicole suggested contacting teacher Britany Leathers. Also, in the future have a contest event to see how many caches can be found in Anderson County in a certain period of time.

#### New Business:

Board Vacancy: The committee discussed names to be considered by the City Commission to appoint to the position vacated by Scott Rogers recently. Helen Norman asked that she be considered as her term expires on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Other names brought up by advisory committee members include Deanna Wolken, Gessica Tastove, Robert Risch, Laurel Ladwig and Lindy Katzer. These individuals will be contacted to see if they have interest in being a part of this committee. Those interested will be forwarded to the City Commission for consideration.

New TGT Requests: None. Susan has asked the Friends of the Library if they will be submitting an application for the Holiday Homes Tour. They are the only entity that has asked for funds in the past that we have not heard from this year. This application might be forthcoming.

The 2016 and 2017 Community Development budgets were reviewed.

Reports:

Reports by Susan Wettstein and Desiree Donovan were sent by email to the committee prior to the meeting and are hereto attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Other: The Chamber is looking for additional volunteers for the Ambassador program. Sally Emerson was suggested.

There being no further items to discuss, a motion was made by Cecilia Lamb to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Stevenson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Susan Wettstein.

Reports: (See next page)

## Susan's Report for September 7th Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting:

As of this morning, August 31st, we have had over 17,220 visits to the SimplyGarnett.com website this month. That is an increase over July by 2,445 visits. Forty-nine percent (49%) is coming through Facebook. Other ways people are finding our website are: 17% Google and 4% Experiencegarnettks.com (old tourism URL). The rest are a mixture of search engines. We continue to keep the old URLs and have them directing people to the SimplyGarnett.com website. However, either today or no later than Friday I will be relinquishing our old website platforms but will continue to keep the old website address (URLs) for a while.

The ACDA Holiday Season Planning Workshop was cancelled due to the fact that only 3 of our businesses registered. Also, the Anderson County Coalition meetings have ceased due to a lack of interest. We are assuming people are "meetinged-out".

The fall calendar is ramping up to be a busy one for special events hoping to bring visitors in. If you haven't looked lately we encourage you to go on our website and browse the Community Calendar, the Special Events calendar and the Bulletin Board areas. When you have time browse [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com) so we can have a discussion on if you like it, find it easier or hard to find information, etc. We would appreciate your suggestions.

Scott Rogers has resigned from this board and requested to be placed on the Community Foundation Board. The Commission has already approved his appointment. Therefore, we have a vacancy on the Tourism Committee. Helen Norman has expressed interest to me on being on the Tourism Committee once she is no longer on the Park and Rec Board. Her term expires soon. I feel that while someone requests to move from one committee to another that your committee needs to discuss this vacancy and recommend names to the City Commission. Then it will be up to the Commission to decide.

I will attach a copy of the 2017 Budget, all of which the funds are derived from transient guest tax receipts. In going over the 3-Year Tourism Marketing Plan, we are fine with this budget on staff projects and training, and as of this year's TGT request amounts we are well within the \$26,000 budgeted for event requests. In 2015, our requests totaled a little more than \$24,000. So we'll have to be mindful of the dollar amounts requested to be sure we do not extend over the \$26,000 budgeted.

The total amount of TGT requests so far this year total \$19,193.18. The only request that I anticipate yet to receive in 2016 might be from the Friends of the Library for the Holiday Homes Tour.

I don't know if we will have the geocaches planted by our meeting on Wednesday but Desiree and I have contacted some of our intended locations for permission and Paula is working on containers. We should have some planted very soon and will follow up with adding information on our website to encourage people to start hunting.

I hope everyone has a great Labor Day Weekend. Colony Days is this Saturday if you are looking for something to do. If you are into country cruisin', I suggest you take a drive out to Cedar Valley Reservoir and check out the nice, new chip and sealed road that has been made on Kentucky Road from 1650 Road past Bauman's Cedar Valley Farms and back east on 1500 Road to the entrance to the reservoir. It is nice and is a great asset to this out-of-town park.

# Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce

## Office Report

September 2016

- **MEMBERSHIP**

STEADY – COMPARABLE TO PREVIOUS YEARS

- **AMBASSADORS**

- September 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. Prairie Belles
- Help with Garage Sale Map Distribution
- Help with Tastes and Talents

- **PAST EVENTS**

- **NO RECENT**

- **OUTREACH**

- Tourism Meeting 9/7/16
- Chamber Board 9/8/16
- Visited several businesses on 8/26/16

- **UPCOMING**

- FCWGS – September 10, 2016
- Tastes & Talents – October 8, 2016
- Ladies Night Out – November

- **OTHER**

- We (Chamber) are currently looking for **members** who would like to serve on the nominating, audit and budget committees for the Chamber. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these.
- New email [director@garnettchamber.org](mailto:director@garnettchamber.org)

The next Chamber Board meeting will be on September 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Dornes Insurance.

*All members are welcome to come and provide ideas or give feedback at meetings from 5-5:30.*