

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 1, 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, Laurel Ladewig, Nicole Stevenson, Bob Risch and Paula Wallace. Also attending: City Manager Chris Weiner, Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director and Desiree Donovan, Chamber Director/Deputy Director of Community Development. Absent: Travis Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Positive Tourism Observations:

Bob stated that the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival was "great". Tom agreed and stated that there were a lot of out of county tags in town that weekend. Susan Wettstein mentioned she is aware that both the Garnett Inn and The Kirk House were booked up for next year's event.

Tom introduced Chris Weiner, City Manager. Chris apologized for not attending a tourism meeting sooner. He expressed his gratitude to the committee for their dedication. Chris stated that he understands the concerns from the board about the amount budgeted for 2018. In his review of the Transient Guest Tax Fund, there has been a decrease in the TGT distributions from the previous year. The City cannot budget more money than what is received. He encouraged this committee to pinpoint some goals that will help during the granting process in the future. Committee Chairman Tom Emerson Jr. ensued in a conversation with City Manager Chris Weiner. At the end of the discussion Tom thanked Chris for attending.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Paula Wallace, seconded by Susan Caron to approve the minutes of October 4, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

Susan presented a Transient Guest Tax Report for October, 2017. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The balance of uncommitted funds was \$8,216.64.

Susan informed the committee that the Financial Report provided has a couple of changes. She stated that the Holiday Boutique and Tastes & Talents events have been cancelled for this year. The Fall Sidewalk Sales were not advertised. Therefore, the anticipated costs have been removed from the report.

She also stated that the After Event Report received by the Greeley Smokeoff showed they had a successful event. Reimbursement may differ from their grant allotment due to a missing receipt upon submission. Susan is giving them a few extra days but the check will be cut soon.

Nicole Stevenson left the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Old Business:

Cornstock and Greeley Smokeoff After Event Reports – Susan will email these reports to the committee because they are lengthy.

New Business:

Consideration of Meeting Change: Travis contacted Susan this afternoon and is not able to attend the meeting tonight to discuss this. Bob stated that Wednesdays are best for him since he coaches many sports. Tom suggested that we wait until we hear back from Travis before changing anything. This matter was therefore tabled.

Kansas Tourism Conference: Susan reported that the conference was focused on diversity. She stated that the conference was very interesting and she was pleased with the different subjects that were covered, both from a tourism and community development standpoint. Susan said she went to the Tour Kansas and Sports Kansas meetings while at the conference. Susan shared that she and Desiree have work to do to add our sports facility locations and events to the state's website under Tour Kansas and SportsKS micro-sites. This will help promote those amenities. Susan will email her notes from the conference to the committee members.

Staff Reports:

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

Susan stated that the Troyer's Prairie Gold Event Center is eager to break ground. Susan encouraged the committee to inform herself or Desiree about any school events that Tourism could provide hospitality for. Bob stated that the League Art Conference is scheduled in April in Garnett.

Desiree informed everyone about the Christmas Parade. She encouraged participation and volunteers.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Bob, seconded by Laurel adjourn. Chairman Tom Emerson, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Desiree Donovan.