

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023

The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, in the Commission Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. with the following members present: Tom Emerson, Jr., Chairman, Paula Wallace, Vice-Chair, and committee members, Krystal Baugher and Helen Norman. Absent were Nicole Stevenson and Laurel Ladewig. Also present were Peyton Markham, Student Guest, and Kris Hix, Director of Community Development and Tourism.

Tom Emerson, Jr., Chairman, welcomed guest Peyton Markham, who joined the meeting for a school project.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tom Emerson, Jr., Chairman. and seconded by Helen Norman to approve the minutes of February 8, 2023, as written. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Financial Report

The cash balance of the Transient Guest Tax Fund as of March 8, 2023, is \$75,894.38. This includes the disbursement in February in the amount of \$8,977.81.

Financial documents were provided by Director Kris Hix for the disbursement, cash balance, previous year's disbursement for comparison, Tourism budget numbers, and spreadsheet of current TGT applications received which totaled \$19,584.32.

New Business

Transient Guest Tax Application-Garnett BPW Square Fair

The committee discussed the various marketing avenues in the application which included postcard mailings. Tom Emerson, Jr. asked about the success of the postcard mailing which was included in the request. Krystal Baugher stated that they only sent them to Garnett/Anderson County Area, and that she wasn't sure of the numbers but that maybe 20 or so postcards were brought to the event for the drawing. Tom Emerson, Jr. stated that he felt that sending outside of the area to bring people here would possible get a greater response. The committee discussed the cost of the various areas for mailing, and what would be most effective. Krystal Baugher suggested that maybe partnering with other events to share the cost might be another route to go. Helen Norman stated that they would be promoting the quilt guild and fire department breakfast when promoting the event. Tom Emerson, Jr. stated that The Chamber Players Community Theatre would possibly be interested in partnering with BPW, but that they wouldn't advertise local. Tom Emerson, Jr. made a motion to recommend it be sent to the City Commission for approval, with the change on the postcards from Anderson County/Richmond, to Burlington,

Waverly, LeRoy, bringing the total amount requested to \$3,395.74. Paula Wallace seconded. With two votes yes, and two abstentions, the motion passed unanimously. (Helen Norman and Krystal Baugher abstained due to being members of the BPW).

Transient Guest Tax Application-Garnett BPW Holiday Boutique

The committee discussed the event being held at the Kirk House, in conjunction with the Library's Holiday Homes Tour, and the marketing of both events. Tom Emerson, Jr., Chairman, made a motion to recommend to the City Commission to approve the application as submitted. Paula Wallace, Vice-Chair, seconded the motion. With two votes yes, and two abstentions, the motion passed unanimously. (Helen Norman and Krystal Baugher abstained due to being members of the BPW).

Discussion of Anderson County Flywheelers Application

Director Kris Hix shared correspondence with Scott Garrett, who had initially requested to appear at the committee meeting to clarify the TGT application that the Anderson County Flywheelers had submitted for review. The committee had reviewed it during the February meeting, and recommended it be sent to commission for approval with the strong recommendation that for next year's event the group would seek sponsorships or collect vendor fees to cover the cost of insurance and portable toilets. Kris Hix stated that he was waiting for his group to meet to discuss the event, and would let her know. Scott stated on Monday that they would not be attending the meeting. All committee members agreed that it was a great and well attended event that they want to see continue. The committee also agreed that events require funds, and that whether it be through sponsorship, vendor fees, or donations. The committee discussed the rules of the application, and that they were all in agreement that the rules needed to be adhered to, since all of the other applications are required to follow the guidelines, which state that funds will be distributed after the event, with receipts provided for the items listed on the application. Director Kris Hix will contact Scott Garrett to schedule a meeting with him about the application.

Staff Report

Director Kris Hix stated that she and City Manager Wilson were working on plans for the June 16, 2023 BAK cyclists coming through the Garnett Community. They will meet with Sherry McKee in March. Kris stated she is working on Town Talk, Kansas Travel Guide listings and event updates, and day to day operations.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, Helen Norman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Krystal Baugher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Hix, Director of Community Development/Tourism