

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, with the following members present: Paula Wallace, Vice-Chairman; Susan Caron, Nicole Stevenson and Travis Wilson. Absent: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman and Laurel Ladewig, Member. Also, in attendance were Krystal Baugher (guest); Chris Weiner, City Manager, Julie Turnipseed, ACDA Economic Development Director; Kris Hix, Administrative Assistant/Chamber Director, and Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director.

Positive Tourism Observations

There are very few houses for sale, showing signs of people investing and moving to Garnett. Travis Wilson reported that there are 10-15 new utility customers monthly. Kris Hix stated the Garnett Hotel & RV Park (formerly Garnett Inn) is renovating and replacing furnishings in all their rooms.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nicole Stevenson and seconded by Travis Wilson to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019 as written. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Financial Report

Susan presented the financials, including an overview of the Transient Guest Tax grant requests for 2019. Of the \$20,875.93 in funds awarded, \$15,198.82 has been reimbursed. The only After Event Report not submitted for reimbursement for 2019 is the Greeley Smokeoff.

The cash balance of the Transient Guest Tax Fund as of December 31, 2019 is \$41,569.77. The total amount of Transient Guest Fund distributions received in 2019 totaled \$25,910.18. This compares to receipts in 2018 - \$26,480.42 and 2017 - \$25,788.25. A motion was made by Nicole Stevenson and seconded by Susan Caron to file the Financial Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

New Business

Committee Vacancy

Krystal Baugher was present and brief discussion was held. A motion was made by Paula Wallace to recommend to the City Commission the appointment Krystal Baugher to the Tourism Advisory Committee. Nicole Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

TGT (Transient Guest Tax)

After Event Reports

Reports were received by the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival, Friends of the Library Holiday Homes Tour, The Chamber Players Community Theatre, and Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce.

A request was considered by ACDA/Morning Mingle for Marketing/TGT funds to promote “Love What’s Local Garnett” in the amount of \$4,000. Discussion was held and the application to be resubmitted. This item tabled until the next meeting.

A request by The Chamber Players Community Theatre for TGT funds to advertise and promote the 2020 Dinner Theatre Shows in the amount of \$3,636.96. Nicole noted the application follows the 70/30 rule and appears to be very well thought out in reaching goals that benefit the theatre and community. Nicole Stevenson made a motion to recommend to the City Commission to approve funding of this application as written, in the amount of \$3,656.96. Travis Wilson seconded said motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Goals for 2020; Strategic Plan Discussion

Susan asked Julie Turnipseed to facilitate a strategic planning discussion. Nicole Stevenson had to leave the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Therefore, the meeting officially adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Discussion continued until 6:25 p.m. by the remaining attendees. This process will continue at the next meeting in February. The Committee thanked Julie for conducting this process.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Wettstein.