

Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023

The Garnett Tourism Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Commission Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. with the following members present: Tom Emerson, Jr., Chairman, and committee members Nicole Stevenson, Krystal Baugher and Helen Norman. Absent were Paula Wallace, Vice-Chair and Laurel Ladewig. Also present was Kris Hix, Director of Community Development and Tourism.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Helen Norman. and seconded by Nicole Stevenson to approve the minutes of January 18, 2023, as written. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Financial Report

The cash balance of the Transient Guest Tax Fund as of January 1, is \$66,916.57.

Tom Emerson, Jr. asked that for future meetings the disbursements for the previous year be provided to compare with the current year for TGT funds

A motion was made by Nicole Stevenson and seconded by Helen Norman to file the financials as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

New Business

Transient Guest Tax Application-Anderson County Flywheelers

The committee asked what amounts were spent last year for the items requested in the non-marketing application. The committee questioned whether the event charged any vendor fees or obtained sponsors, and why they were requesting insurance and portable toilets being paid for, when those things were not paid for with other events. The committee asked if there was a way to know the amount of sales tax collected during this event to see what the financial benefit to the community was. There was also concern that this would be a yearly request and the event wouldn't be sustainable if there were no fees collected or sponsors for the event. The committee agreed that it was not a large amount but felt that those items could be paid for with the previously mentioned fees or sponsorships. The committee agreed that they had no issue with the marketing application. They also agreed that the application was very vague on the criteria for what was accepted. A motion was made by Tom Emerson, Jr. to accept both applications be submitted to the commission for approval, with the strong recommendation

that other arrangements be made for the non-marking items for all future years. The motion was seconded by Nicole Stevenson. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Staff Report

Kris Hix provided information for the committee which included the 2023 Special Events Calendar, the 2023 Kansas Travel Guide, and information on the SPRINT Grant that the City is submitting at the end of February, as well as information on murals from the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Kris Hix shared that she had been approached by KDWP about this program, and that they were interested in seeing what it would take to get a mural for Garnett, and what was involved. She reached out to the State for more information on this program, and when she received this information, she would share this information with the committee at the March meeting.

Kris Hix also shared that she attended the EPA meeting at EKAE this week, and the conversation included possible funding opportunities for the construction of the new water treatment plant. Communications with City staff will continue to learn more about what is possible.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Tom Emerson, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

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