

Garnett Tourism Committee
Minutes
May 4, 2016

The Garnett Tourism Committee met at the Chamber Players Community Theatre on May 4, 2016 with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, Cecilia Lamb, Vice Chairman, Susan Caron, Scott Rogers and Travis Wilson, members. Also attending: Joyce Martin, City Manager, Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director and Desiree Donovan, Administrative Assistant/GACC Director.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Positive Tourism Observations: Tom reported that over 400 tickets have been sold for the current CPCT show. Air Fair and Square Fair were well attended. Joyce noted that there are a lot of campers and a scouting group planning to be here during Square Fair weekend as well.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Cecilia Lamb to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016 as written. Susan Caron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Joyce presented the Transient Guest Tax Report. The balance of uncommitted funds as of April 30, 2016 is \$14,079.61. This includes receiving \$5,583.32 in Transient Guest Tax for the last quarter. Joyce will have a 5-Year Financial Report for the next meeting showing what the TGT distributions have been to compare this year over previous years.

Old Business

Committee Vacancies: Suggested names to fill the two (2) vacancies on the Tourism Committee include: Matt and Nicole Stevenson, Paula Wallace, Melinda Holloran, Ruth Lee Hastert and Ruth Theis. Individuals will be contacted and it will be up to the City Commission to make the appointments. Those who would like to volunteer and are not appointed to this committee appear to be great possibilities for other vacancies on advisory boards. Currently there is a vacancy on the Community Foundation Board and one on the Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals.

Project Garnett Remembers: See Susan's report.

PRIDE Update: Joyce reported that the Governing Body approved the resolution declaring Garnett as a Kansas PRIDE Community. The Commission is reviewing names to appoint to the Board of Directors.

Kansas Sampler Festival: See Susan's report.

New Business

New TGT Requests: None.

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. Desiree also mentioned that the Chamber was looking for volunteers to help with Libertyfest's American Pride Run and Taste & Talents activities.

Joyce noted that the Racing Association and Lake Garnett Committee have met concerning lake road improvements.

Scott Rogers announced that Golden Heights Living Center is having a bake sale to fundraise for GAPP on Friday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Tour: Susan has contacted Paula Wallace about going on a geocaching adventure as a group. We will meet at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. This excursion will be in place of our regular meeting in June.

There being no further items to discuss, a motion was made by Cecilia Lamb to adjourn the meeting. Scott Rogers seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Susan Wettstein.

Reports: (See next page)

Susan's Tourism Report for May 4, 2016

We hosted the follow up social media roundtable on April 18th that some of the attendees of the symposium asked for. However, only 2 people showed up and so we feel we have expended enough of our time on that.

We have 35 banners ordered for the first go round of *Project: Garnett Remembers*. The City is purchasing an addition 6 banners representing the various branches of service. Those banners are the smaller ones and will be placed on 4th Avenue. The City will host a "Celebration of Service" ceremony as an opening event for the banner project. Joyce has contacted the Garnett Area Community Band and we have invited the American Legion, VFW and American Legion Riders. Letter will go out inviting all of the banner sponsors to attend this special event honoring the individuals on the banners. Gordon Blackie will give an invocation and Joyce will read the names and information put on the banners during the event. The location for this ceremony is the Anderson County Courthouse lawn on Wednesday, May 25th at 7 pm.

The Flatlanders RV camping group is bringing 25 people to camp and attend Square Fair/Air Fair this coming weekend. They have reserved the campsites on the east side of Lake Garnett, with plans to eat Friday night at Mr. D's and plenty of shopping.

We are about ready for the Kansas Sampler Festival this weekend. Desiree and I will leave Friday afternoon to set up and then work Saturday and Sunday. I have ordered a couple of retractable banners that I hope to get in time for our meeting so that you can see them.

I have sent out letters to attractions and businesses to seek participation in the 2017 Kansas Visitors Guide. The state is giving a small discount (\$5) if the listings are placed online by May 13th. I am receiving responses. We will be updating all the listings on the www.travelks.com when we get back from the Kansas Sampler.

Our new website combining the municipal government website, tourism website and Anderson County Economic Development all into one website is progressing. www.simplygarnett.com has been published and is viewable now to the public. As we work out some details and are still adding information I have not yet launched a PR campaign about it yet. You may take a look at it at your leisure and give us any feedback you might have.

As discussed at the last meeting, there are two vacancies on the Tourism Committee. Desiree contacted Matt and Nicole Stevenson and both would like to be appointed. We are still trying to contact Terry or Teresa Ellsworth.

Lastly, I contacted Paula Wallace and she will meet us at city hall on Wednesday, June 1st at 5:30 p.m. and then take us geocaching. This will be in place of our June meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday, May 4th) at 5:30 p.m.

Thank you.

MAY 2016

Membership

- Kwikom (pending)
- Economy Inn (pending)
- Kincaid Community Library

• **Ambassadors**

- Met 04/13/16 @ Prairie Belle's Kitchen.
- Discussing office coverage, event planning and computer updates.
- Welcome Wagon going well - new list given to them
- New Login and email for this group
- Next meeting 5/12/16 8:30 a.m. Daylight Donuts

• **Past Events**

- Spring CWGS - After Event positive feedback, very busy
- Swap and Market Meet - members
- Libertyfest Committee Meeting 4/15/16

• **Outreach**

- Coalition Meeting 04/18/2016
- Social Media Symposium Follow Up

• **Upcoming**

- Coalition Meeting 5/9/2016
- Kansas Sampler - May 6-8
- Golf Tournament 06/11/2016
- Libertyfest 07/02/2016
- Taste's & Talent's - October
- Ladies Night Out - October

• **Other**

- Looking into Grant's for new/updated software for office
- LOIS website - economic development