

**Garnett Tourism Committee  
Minutes  
October 4, 2017**

The Garnett Tourism Committee met on October 4, 2017, in the Commission Room at Garnett City Hall with the following members present: Tom Emerson, Chairman, Susan Caron, Laurel Ladewig, Paula Wallace and Nicole Stevenson. Robert Risch arrived later during the meeting. Absent: Travis Wilson. Also attending: Guest Chris Goetz representing the Long Cedar Disc Golf Club and Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Positive Tourism Observations:**

By appearance Cornstock had a record number of attendees this year. Opening night for The Chamber Players Community Theatre performance of "Love, Loss and What I Wore" at the high school was the largest single night audience (187 tickets sold) in Chamber Players history to date. All remaining performances were also sold-out audiences. The next show begins November 30th.

Guest speaker at this meeting was Chris Goetz, who gave an informational presentation on the new disc golf course located in the North Lake Park. Chris said there are currently 15 baskets standing. The goal is to have 18 baskets located in the park, with an additional 6 baskets installed for the children to play with behind Garnett Elementary School. He commended the City of Garnett for labor provided to help with brush removal and pouring of concrete. There are now some great walking trails along the disc golf playing area.

The first disc golf tournament was held in conjunction with Cornstock. Thirty-seven people entered, among them was at least one pro player who scored a negative 10 (-10). The course is already being rated a 4 and 5-star course due to its level challenges, including throwing across the water. However, the course has the state recognition as being considered "under construction/build" status. The ultimate goal is to have 24 holes. On league nights (Tuesdays) there are typically 10 to 20 people playing disc golf. The cost per basket was a question asked, in which Chris responded \$500 per basket for those in the park, including concrete. The 6 holes (baskets only, no concrete) at GES are \$350 to sponsor. Funding has went through the Garnett Community Foundation and donations are tax-deductible.

Chris explained the different kinds of tournaments; pro levels and fundraising tournaments, saying that some pro tournaments bring people to town for a week's stay. Tom Emerson, Jr. explained what Transient Guest Tax funds can be used for and under the non-marketing grant funds could possibly be considered to help with course development, help with a startup tournament costs, etc. The marketing grant could help promote tournaments. Chris was very appreciative of this information.

Chris also mentioned the possibility of a moonlight (glow-in-the-dark) disc golf tournament. Discs are available for sale at the Rec Center courtesy of Dynamic Discs of

Emporia. Persons who want to play can upload the U-Disc Golf app for free on their smart phone. There is no fee to play disc golf.

Chris Goetz left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Paula Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2017 as submitted. Nicole Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Financials:

A TGT Report for the month of September was provided to the Committee showing an ending balance after committed funds of \$8,267.42.

#### Old Business:

None.

#### New Business:

Susan Wettstein reported that the 2018 Budget shows a decrease in the amount of Transient Guest Tax funds to be used for grant requests. The amount for 2018 is \$20,000. The amount in this year's budget is \$26,000. Tom expressed disappointment of this. Susan suggested that Tom might visit with City Manager Chris Weiner about this.

#### Staff Reports:

Susan Wettstein provided a written staff report by email when sending out the agenda. The following is in addition to that report:

Travis Wilson has been unable to attend recent tourism meetings. Susan asked Travis if he would be able to attend future meetings and he was uncertain. She asked if the Committee had thoughts on this. Susan was instructed to get a firm commitment or resignation from Travis. If another time of the month would work better for Travis' schedule the Committee could consider a meeting date change.

Susan reported that work orders for infrastructure amenities for the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival event had been taken care of. She met with the organizers last Saturday to take care of camping for the event.

Susan noted that Desiree had been working hard on the Chamber's Taste and Talents event and encouraged everyone to buy tickets.

The Garnett Tourism geocaches have all been replaced or replanted except for the Harris House. Susan has one more to plant, where to be announced.

The advertisement that was going to be purchased for placement in *Midwest Sports Planner* is not going to happen. The publishing company that produces this magazine has cancelled future issues of this publication.

Susan has been participating in the *Resurgence of Downtowns* webinars. There was a webinar held today.

Tom asked if the research on the recent decrease in revenue from Transient Guest Tax had been done. Susan will visit with the city manager on providing information at the next meeting. Tom asked if Chris can attend the next Tourism Committee meeting. The Committee would like to meet him.

Robert Risch entered the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Susan gave him an overview of what had been discussed. She also shared information about her new job description as Director of Community Development.

There being no further business brought before the committee, Nicole Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Caron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Susan Wettstein.