

Garnett Tourism Committee
Minutes
March 15, 2016

The Garnett Tourism Committee met on March 15, 2016 with the following members present: Tom Emerson Jr., Chairman, and member Susan Caron. Absent: Cecilia Lamb, Vice Chairman, Brogen Katzer, Charlotte Lutz, Scott Rogers and Travis Wilson, members. Also attending: Joyce Martin, City Manager and Susan Wettstein, Community Development Director.

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

Positive Tourism Observations: Susan Caron spoke about a new welcome program the Chamber Ambassadors are starting in which they will make personal visits to new residents and give them a packet of information, homemade cookies, and some inexpensive toys if the new resident family has children. This was an idea she brought back from the Big Rural Brainstorm. The Ambassadors have already visited some of the new residents and they were very appreciative. Susan Caron stated that all newcomers to the community are being told that if they have questions or concerns to please contact the Ambassadors via the Chamber Office and they will assist them however they possibly can.

Tom reported that the magic number was reached at the theatre - 800 tickets were sold during the show, "Leona, Love Thy Neighbor Too". This is approximately 80 more than sold at the previous record-setting show. The next theatre performance will be a mystery murder and there will be an audience participation element.

Joyce noted we have new construction underway, including buildings for the County, State and a new dentist office.

There is not a quorum for this meeting and therefore no business can be conducted. Susan Wettstein will poll the committee for another date to meet. There is a TGT application by the Anderson County Corn Festival to consider prior to the next City Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes - Tabled.

Financial Report

Joyce presented the Transient Guest Tax Report. The balance of uncommitted funds as of February 1, 2016 is \$12,634.46.

Old Business

PRIDE Survey: The Pride survey was completed and Desiree has compiled the information. Joyce will be giving this information to the City Commission for their review.

Social Media Symposium: Needing more people to sign up for this event.

Art Events Calendar: Joyce reported that the Walker Art Committee has been too busy with the Juried Art Show, working on displaying the autographed letters to Maynard Walker, and other projects at this point.

Kansas Sampler Festival: Desiree and Susan Wettstein will be attending. They are going to the SEKTR meeting on March 17th. Discussion about the festival will take place at this meeting.

Kansas At Your Service: Tabled.

New Business - Tabled.

There being no further items to discuss until a quorum is met, Chairman Tom Emerson Jr. adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Susan Wettstein.

Reports: (See next page)

March 2016

Membership

6th Ave. Boutique & Bronze	Hepner Appraisal Service
All In One Pest Control	Jim & Lou Ann Shmidl
Anderson Co Fair Association	Kansas Corn Growers Association
Anderson County Advocate	Kansas Property Place
Anderson County Corn Festival	KIKS KIOL
Anderson County Hospital	KOFO Radio
Archer Insurance Agency	L & M Catering
Askins-Beller Retail Liquor	Maloan's Bar and Grille
Auburn Pharmacy	Midwest Cleaning Service
Barney's Liquor	Miller Hardware
BG Consultants	Neosho County Community College
Blackhorse Trading Co.	Paula Sjorlund, Avon
Brummel Farm Service	Prairie Belle's Kitchen & Catering
Burns Dental Laboratory	Refined Recherished
Can-Coctions	Ryan Disbrow Agency
Casey's General Store #1336	Sandi Otipoby, DDS
City of Garnett	Sandra's Quick Stop
Country Mart	Sandy Sample
Craig E. Cole, Attorney At Law	Scipio Supper Club
Daylight Donuts	Short Stop
Dornes Insurance Agency	Tax Time Service Inc.
Earl & Ann Lizer	Chamber Players Community Theater
East Kansas Agri-Energy	The Kirk House
El Jimador	The Schulte Agency
Everything Else	USD 365
First Baptist Church	Wettstein Auto & Welding
Floral Expressions & Salon	Wolken Tire
Front Row Sports	Yoder's Country Store
Garnett Area Paint Project	
Garnett Dairy Queen	
Garnett Flowers & Gifts	
Garnett Lions Club	
Garnett Mini Storage	
Garnett Publishing	
Garnett Sonic	
Garnett True Value	
Garnett Vision Source	
Golden Heights Living Center	
Goppert State Service Bank	
Guest Home Estates	
HayesBrand Molding, Inc	
Helen Norman, ViVi Jewlery	

- **Ambassadors**
 - Meeting at Yoder's Country Store 8:30 a.m. 03/9/2016
- **Past Events**
- **Member Directory/Community Guide**
 - DONE - pick up at City Hall or GACC
- **Outreach**
 - Coalition Meeting 2/8/2016 & 3/14/2016
 - Glenda & Joe - Easter
 - Walker Art/Grand Prix Revival 2/18/2016
- **Upcoming**
 - Easter Celebration - 03/26/2016
 - Spring City Wide Garage Sales - April 9th
 - Quarterly Member Luncheon - April 29th

Susan's Tourism Report - March 9, 2016

We received a total of 165 Pride surveys. Desiree combined all of the answers into one report. There were 32 people that gave their contact information to say they were interested in being involved in the Pride Committee or kept informed of Garnett Pride. It will be up to Joyce to decide the next step.

So far we have only 4 people signed up for the Social Media Symposium. Advance sign-up deadline is March 23rd for the March 29th event. We will be doing more to promote it to reach our goal of 30 participants.

We have launched the "Project: Garnett Remembers" patriotic banner project. Please help spread the word. We need to get sponsor forms and photos in hand - the sooner, the better.

Desiree, Susan Caron, Rosanna Bauman and Brandon Gates (Mayor of Kincaid) attended the Big Rural Brainstorm in Newton. Desiree and Susan Caron can report at the meeting.

Phil Bures, Desiree and I visited with Phyllis Wilson's high school video class about making some short micro-moment videos for both recreation and tourism. The students seemed to be into the projects, so we will see.

We tried to promote a photo of a sports car going around Lake Garnett in the League of Kansas Municipalities Hometown Showdown contest. We were defeated in Round 2 of the contest today by Rose Hill, 338-259. It was still a good effort and a way to help promote the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival. I am sure the 58 post shares had a positive effect on getting the word out about the event, and hopefully gained us some publicity as well.

I have done some PR and inviting of dignitaries for the 20th anniversary of the Prairie Spirit Trail. The annual trail celebration will be held March 16th. Trail users are a target market focus for us this year in our marketing plan.

We are working on printing materials and getting ready for the Kansas Sampler Festival (May 7-8) and work continues on the new website. With the Town Talk deadline approaching the launch of the website is unknown at this point but still looking to do it by May. Desiree is helping me by giving Town Talk a facelift. I am excited about the new look and I am sure you will be too.

I would like to revisit the idea of working with the Chamber on the ***Kansas At Your Service*** hospitality training. As you know, it is still in our 3-Year Action Plan. Looking for some ideas to motivate employers to have their employees take the online training (www.kansasatyourservice.com).

We welcome Travis Wilson as the newest member of the Tourism Committee. Travis has filed for City Commissioner also. Welcome aboard!

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