

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room

Members Present: Ernie Flangas
Jacki Hansen
Lorraine Clark
Bruce Setterstrom

Staff Present: Ed Spear
Lori Drew

Members Absent: Richard Howe

Public Present: Mark Bassett
Geri Wopschall
Kay Roberts
Melody Van Camp
Scott Husbands

Drew Skeen
Bryane Goeringer
Suzie Goeringer
Shane Bybee
Joy Groves

Ernie Flangas called to order the meeting of the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board at 10:00 a.m. on May 19, 2016 in the White Pine Room at the Bristlecone Convention Center. Lorraine Clark led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Public Comment: Bryane Goeringer stated that he and Suzie Goeringer have been following what the City is doing regarding taking room tax. He has spoken to the City Council and expressed he does not feel this is a good idea and may not even be legal. He feels there should be a request made for an AG opinion. He feels like we are on the cusp of every time we need money room tax will be dipped into and the money should be used to bring in tourism to the community. He is requesting on the behalf of the Jailhouse Motel that the board proceed with acquiring a legal opinion. Shane Bybee representing the Ramada Copper Queen stated that he agrees with Bryane. He feels the action is illegal and he would like to see this go one step further than review with a class action lawsuit brought by the Board and the hotel owners together. He would like to see that on the next agenda. Lori Drew introduced Joy Groves as the new member of the office staff.

II. Public Hearing:

1. Review of Tentative Budget for FY 2016-2017: Ed Spear explained that he has made some changes to including salary changes and decreasing the event category to increase the Aid to Organizations Grant category. There were no changes requested.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Close Public Hearing:

III. New Business:

1. Approval of Final Budget for FY 2016-2017. Ed Spear stated that the tentative budget has been approved by the state so if there are no changes it is ready to be submitted as the final budget.

Motion: Lorraine Clark. To approve the final budget for FY 2016-2017.

Motion seconded: Jacki Hansen **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

2. Update on Bathtub Races: Ed Spear stated there was nothing new at this time. Lori Drew requested that if anyone on the board needed a different size than last year that they get that to Meg right away.

3. Approval of Sign Artwork: Mr. Spear showed the proposed artwork for the billboard at the Lund Junction and at the Highway 6 and Murry Street Junction.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve the proposed artwork.

Motion seconded: Lorraine Clark **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

4. Approval to Solicit CMAR Proposal to Complete Facelift of Convention Center Exterior Walls:

Ed Spear explained that last year the estimate for the side of the building came in \$30,000.00 higher than expected so he has made adjustments to the next budget to complete this project. He would like to ask S & H Architecture prepare a proposal so that it would match the front of the building which was designed by S & H also.

Motion: Jacki Hansen to solicit CMAR proposal to complete the facelift of the convention center exterior walls.

Motion seconded: Lorraine Clark **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1. White Pine Golf Course Update: Lorraine Clark stated that the Board met and Randy Long had submitted a written report that detailed everything.

2. Approval of April 21, 2016 and April 27, 2016 Minutes: Lori Drew stated that there was a name correction on the April 27, 2016 minutes.

Motion: Lorraine Clark. To approve of April 27, 2016 meeting minutes with the correction.

Motion seconded. Jacki Hansen. **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

Jacki Hansen stated that looking at the motion from the last meeting which reads "To increase the room tax by 2% with 1% being effective July 1, 2016 and the additional 1% effective July 1, 2017 contingent on the legality of the city's proposed room tax ordinance. If the ordinance is not legal it will be retracted." she agrees with the motel owners that it may not be legal and feels we should look into it further.

3. Review of the Financial Report: Ed Spear said that the room tax last month was down 15% from the same period last year but we are still ahead of budget projection which will increase our ending fund balance. He will probably will need to make an augmentation. Mr. Spear stated that postage was way over budget but that was a good thing since it means we have had a large number of requests for information.

Motion: Lorraine Clark. To approve the financial report.

Motion seconded. Jacki Hansen. **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

4. Approval to Pay Bills:

Motion: Jacki Hansen. To ratify checks #21961-22012 in the amount of \$144,922.81

Motion seconded. Lorraine Clark **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

5. Correspondence: None

6. Nevada Northern RR Director's Report: Mark Bassett reported engine 93 will be operating by Memorial Weekend. They were successful at the CCCA grant presentation. They received \$69,000.00 for the McGill Depot and that should get the McGill Depot opened. \$48,000.00 was also granted for the East Ely yard and that would be used for the carpenter shop which has foundation issues. April ridership was down by 36 riders probably due to the weather. SNLPMNA grants have been applied for several projects on the grounds. According to YESCO the new sign should be up by mid-June. The 1.4 million dollar track project has begun. There are strict regulations on safety for the areas that are being worked on. The Phoenix Dare project is moving forward and they are starting to dismantle 81. The Nevada Northern Railway is on the cover of VIA magazine which has a readership of about 2.3 million. Ernie Flangas asked if the McGill depot would be totally done. Mark stated that it will be open to the public but still need work. Mr. Flangas asked if there is a plan to open the route all the way to the McGill Depot to which Mr. Bassett responded, "Yes, once I find about 1.5 million for the project."

7. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Spear stated that we are scheduled to participate in the State Fair. Bruce and Pat Setterstrom will go over on the 8th to set up and work the booth and Meg Rhoades will join them on the 10th to work the weekend. Mr. Spear stated that he has received correspondence from the Nevada State Bar concerning the fact that they are starting to outgrow our facility. To expand the facility at this time is not an option with the current budget concerns.

8. Staff Report: Lori Drew reported that there is an available bathtub which is competition ready to go, if anyone is interested in entering the races but need a tub. Lori stated that there has been a large number of foreign visitors in the office this spring.

9. Board Member Report: Jacki Hansen had no report. Lorraine Clark is working with Paul Kellogg on the mural that will be next to the Hotel Nevada on the southwest side of Fifth Street. The Renaissance Society has published a book on influential women in White Pine County. The National Speleological Society will be unveiling their mural July 16th. The 4th of July activities are being planned. The student art show is still up at the Art Bank and the Garnet Mercantile has a Native American display. Chairman Ernie Flangas had no report either. Bruce Setterstrom stated that the city would need to triple the fees to pay for the infrastructure under Aultman Street and Highway 93. The City Council decided to use room tax funds instead. Mr. Setterstrom stated if the Tour & Rec Board challenged the City's Ordinance regarding the 2.5 percent for infrastructure, he would direct the city put on their agenda to fund Parks & Recreation through room tax so that they could use that portion of their budget to make the payment on the infrastructure loan.

IV. Public Comment:

Scott Husbands stated that if the Board chooses to challenge the ordinance that the June 23rd meeting may not be early enough. He stated that he would deliver a legal opinion on the options the Board may have to challenge before the June 23rd meeting.

V. Adjournment:

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded: Lorraine Clark **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

Minutes submitted by: Meg Rhoades

Minutes approved by:

Name

Date