

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2016
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Bristlecone Convention Center – White Pine Room

Members Present: Ernie Flangas
Jacki Hansen
Lorraine Clark
Bruce Setterstrom
Richard Howe

Staff Present: Ed Spear
Lori Drew
Scott Husbands

Members Absent: None

Public Present: Wayne Cameron
Mark Bassett
Melody Van Camp

Ernie Flangas called to order the meeting of the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board at 10:00 a.m. on September 22, 2016 at the White Pine Room at the Bristlecone Convention Center. Lorraine Clark led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Public Comment: None

II. New Business:

1. Approval of to Attend Tour Operator Event Sponsored by Travel Nevada on November 17, 2016: Ed Spear explained that the Nevada Division of Tourism has asked the territory chairs to go to a tour operator event being held in the Los Angeles area. There are a large number of tour operators that will be attending this event and the cost to the board should be close to \$1,000.00.

Motion: Jacki Hansen. To approve sending Ed Spear to the Travel Nevada Event.

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

2. Approval of Funding for the NNRy Audio System: Mark Bassett stated that they are heading into the busiest season with the Haunted Ghost Train and the Polar Express and the sound system is having serious issues. It has broken down at times and some coaches can hear it while others cannot. It was stated that this would have qualified for a Capital Improvement grant. Mr. Spear explained that the budget would need to be augmented. Concerns were expressed about awarding outside of the grant cycle. Mr. Spear explained that we have been waiting on a quote from Fitch Electronics but have not received it. Mr. Bassett explained that the system went down in July during the cave convention.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve the purchase of a new sound system for the Nevada Northern Railway.

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

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Legal Action and Remedies Regarding City of Ely Ordinance

Collecting Room Tax Revenue from Tourism & Recreation Board: Chairman Flangas asked that the item be removed from the agenda. There were no objections from the board.

2. Sights, Sounds & Smells of Christmas: Ed Spear informed the board that we have confirmation from the group re:Voiced to be our entertainment. The fashion show planning is under way with proceeds going to the C.A.C.H. program. Mr. Spear explained that the previously discussed number for the event of \$15,000.00 was a very high number and expenses would run closer to \$6,000.00

3. Update from SH Architecture/CORE Construction: Ed Spear stated that he was waiting on the final drawings. There was some additional engineering that needed to be done.

4. White Pine Golf Course Update: Lorraine Clark stated that the board had just met and that the course was in good shape and had received a good amount of play this year. The National Speleological Society using the course for their campground was good for the budget and they are looking at replacing some aging equipment. The golf course has begun receiving the .5% tax. Mrs. Clark also reported that the course did receive international coverage as a result of the cave convention. Also Randy Long is going to work with Wayne Cameron at the chamber to see about NCOT grants for signage. The next meeting will be October 10, 2016.

5. Approval of July 28, 2016 and August 18, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve the July 28, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion seconded. Lorraine Clark **unanimous motion carried**

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve the August 18, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion seconded. Lorraine Clark **3 aye, Richard Howe and Ernie Flangas abstained motion carried**

6. Review of the Financial Report: Ed Spear said that income is already at 25% of our yearly income due to the cave convention and the fact that some properties have increased their price. Expenses are in line with projected. Mr. Spear also noted the difference in the cost of our power bill. Lori Drew stated that we used to pay about \$3000.00 each month and last month the bill was around \$800.00.

Motion: Jacki Hansen. To approve the financial report.

Motion seconded. Richard Howe. **unanimously approved motion carried**

5. Approval to Ratify Bills:

Motion: Jacki Hansen. To ratify checks #22191-22244 in the amount of \$135,998.04

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

5. Correspondence: None

6. Nevada Northern RR Director's Report: Mark Bassett reported that engine 40 went through her annual inspection and is back in service. Engine 81 has had the asbestos removed and is looking good. 1178 passengers were carried in August with a 6623 annual total; ridership is slightly down from last year. The Haunted Ghost Trains will be running every Saturday in October and the track project has been completed. Bruce Setterstrom asked about taking care of the weeds in the new grassy area. Mr. Bassett said that they are planning on removing the weeds and putting in mulch this coming spring.

7. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Spear stated that he met with a film company talking about the Loneliest Road in America. He will also be doing an interview with Peter Greenburg who is syndicated in almost every country. They will be talking about highway 50 and Great Basin National Park. We also will be meeting with a film crew from Brazil. They will be filming the railroad and Great Basin National Park. On October 8th there will be a pre-conference FAM with over 30 international tour operators in Ely. They will ride the Haunted Ghost Train and visit Great Basin National Park before going on to the Governor's Global Tourism Summit. On October 10th, there are two Canadian Tours coming in, as well as, Leisure West Tours bring in a group to "Be the Engineer".

8. Staff Report: Lori Drew things have been a little quiet so we have been working on catching up on building maintenance. She stated that she will not be attending Governors Conference as she will be out of town.

9. Board Member Report: Lorraine Clark reported that the Renaissance Village closed the previous weekend. They will be open for both the May and September car races next year. The Art Bank is doing well and the number of international visitors has been great. They have even had a group from India. Lorraine is training a new volunteer at the Art Bank. The group has gained three new volunteers this summer. Jacki Hansen had no report. Ernie Flangas welcomed Mr. Spear back from his medical leave.

IV. Public Comment: None.

V. Adjournment:

Motion: Richard Howe. To adjourn the meeting.

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

Minutes submitted by: Meg Rhoades

Minutes approved by:

Name

Date