

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Staff Present: Ed Spear
Lori Drew

Public Present: Jasmine Shoning
Mark Bassett
Bunny Hill
John Lampros
Melody Van Camp

Gerri Wopschall
Joleen Gardner
B.J. Able
Bill Ricci

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

I. Public Comment: None

II. New Business:

1. Approval of HVAC for Board Room: Ed Spear stated that the bids were for heat only because there has not been a need to cool the room. There were two bids that the board reviewed.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To award the contract to JW Electric for the Marley heaters.

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

2. Update from White Pine Trap and Skeet: Bill Ricci and BJ Able reported that they have received their 501c-3 status, elected officers, approved bylaws and set up a bank account. They are waiting to start on improvements until the lease with the 4-H is approved. It is currently sitting in legal at the University. Richard Howe stated that he spoke with Jasmine Shoning and the 4-H is looking forward to working with the club and just waiting on legal to approve. Jacki Hansen reminded Mr. Ricci that the grant money needs to be spent or under contract by June 30, 2017.

3. Closed Personnel Session: Mr. Setterstrom requested to move this item to after #4

4. U.S. Department of Labor Compliance with New Regulations Regarding Exempt Employees: Mr. Spear explained that the requirements for being listed as an exempt employee. The employee needs to be either degreed or have three years' experience and be over at least two or more employees or their equivalent. Discussion followed. Lori Drew explained that for 2016 projected hours will be 2307 hours which would mean under hourly almost 220 hours would have to be paid at time and a half. Jacki Hansen stated that she would like more information. Mrs. Hansen suggested going to hourly for at least six months due to the fact that once the raise is given it can't be taken back. The new law requires that a significant raise is given every two years and she is concerned with the long term financial implications for the board. Mrs. Hansen also stated her concern on if Ms. Rhoades qualified because of her lack of ability to hire and fire.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve to move Meg Rhoades to salary.

Motion seconded: Lorraine Clark Discussion followed. Second withdrawn by Lorraine Clark

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve to move Meg to exempt under the condition that if the position comes up for rehire it may not be advertised as salary.

Motion seconded: Lorraine Clark **motion carried 4 aye with Jacki Hansen against**

3. Closed Personnel Session:

5. Approval of Wage Increase for Staff: There was discussion about keeping the difference in wage between the two positions.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To raise Lori Drew's wage \$1.14 per hour. Motion withdrawn.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To table the item.

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

6. Approval of Christmas Holiday Bonuses for Staff: Mr. Spear stated that he feels the bonus is for the great job they have done throughout the year. Richard Howe said that he felt that Meg received a raise and Lori is still being considered for a substantial raise and he feels that just the hourly employees should qualify for the bonus.

Motion: Richard Howe. To approve bonuses to Neal \$200.00 net, Brian \$100.00 net, Marissa, \$50.00 net and Joy \$50.00 net.

Motion seconded: Bruce Setterstrom **unanimously approved motion carried**

7. Approval to Purchase Fireworks for 2017 Fire & Ice Show and 2017 Fireworks Express

Express: Mr. Spear stated that annually we budget for this event.

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To approve up to \$6000.00 to purchase fireworks for the 2017 Fire & Ice and the Fireworks Express.

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

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sights, Sounds & Smells of Christmas: Ed Spear informed the board that there were only 12 tickets left for the fashion show. The decorating is almost done. The backrooms will be done in poinsettias. Re:Voiced will be doing a matinee for kids and our performance at the auction. The Christmas cards in the park will not happen this year due to the need to reevaluate the electrical to keep them lit.

2. Update from SH Architecture/CORE Construction: Ed Spear stated that SH is working with Brad Christiansen on approval of a final design. Work will not begin until this spring.

3. White Pine Golf Course Update: Lorraine Clark stated that the advisory board had met and the contract is almost finalized. The next meeting will be in either January or early February. Randy Long stated at their meeting that people were still golfing. An article appeared in Golfdom Magazine generated from the cave convention.

4. Approval of October 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Lorraine Clark. To approve the October 20, 2016 meeting minutes.

Motion seconded. Jacki Hansen **motion carried** Bruce Setterstrom abstained

5. Review of the Financial Report: Ed Spear said that the year is coming in better than he had hoped. Expenses are staying within budget.

Motion: Lorraine Clark. To accept the financial report.

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

6. Approval to Ratify Bills:

Motion: Jacki Hansen. To ratify checks #22287-22331 in the amount of \$85,582.28

Motion seconded. Bruce Setterstrom. **unanimously approved** **motion carried**

7. Correspondence: Lori Drew showed the board the thank you letter and picture from the horse races.

8. Nevada Northern RR Director's Report: Mark Bassett expressed his gratitude for the new sound system. He said it is working great. Ticket sales are at about 2,300 for the Polar Express so far, last year 3,700 people made the trip to the North Pole and there is a chance of hitting the 4,000 mark this year. The vast majority come from Las Vegas, Elko county and California. Engine 93 is out of service until we receive a waiver. If the waiver is granted engine 81 will be completed, if the waiver doesn't go through 93 will go down for her boiler redo. Mr. Bassett has received agreements from the state for the yard redo. NDOT looked at the crossing by the Prospector and they will giving a grant to help fix that. Mr. Bassett explained the Phoenix Dare program and asked if anyone had any contacts on a corporate level that he could make a presentation to please let him know. The flyer will go out to all White Pine and Eureka County residents. Ernie Flangas told Mr. Bassett he was in the convention center office when Mrs. Drew received a call

from New York from a group wanting to come ride the Polar Express. Mr. Bassett said that he has had requests from Alaska as well as requests for family groups as large as 65. Gift shop sales are down slightly.

9. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Spear reported that Larry Friedman and Kari Frilot will be in town to say farewell. Mr. Friedman will be retiring from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Mr. Spear stated that he had not received any interest from others in the territory to help at Quartzite. He will put out another request. The busy travel season is just about to start. Lori will be attending the TAC meeting in Carson City December 6th representing Pony Express Territory. The second cycle of grants will be released in mid-December.

10. Staff Report: no report.

11. Board Member Report: Bruce Setterstrom stated to Lori Drew that they will be looking at giving her a raise at the next meeting and she won't be left out. Lorraine Clark said that the Renaissance Society will be doing hot chocolate before the parade at the Art Bank. Mr. Flangas stated that there was still plenty to do to finish getting ready for the Festival of Trees if anyone wanted to stay and help.

IV. Public Comment: none

V. Adjournment:

Motion: Bruce Setterstrom. To adjourn the meeting.

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

Minutes submitted by: Meg Rhoades

Minutes approved by:

Name

Date