

HAMILTON COUNTY VISITOR AND CONVENTION COMMISSION
37 E. Main Street, Carmel, Indiana
Minutes of the Meeting
August 8, 2019

Attending:

Robyn Pauker, Bill Smythe, Todd Burtron, Perry Williams, Andrea Huisden, Brenda Tolson, Tiffany Pascoe, Donna Prather. Also attending were new Tourism Commissioners Ashley Dora, Dora Hotel Company and Dave Lingafelter, Top Golf, both Fishers appointees.

Also Attending:

Brenda Myers, President/CEO; Karen Radcliff, Vice President/CSO; Betsy Ekelof, Operations Director; and, Kristopher Kazmierczak, Legal Counsel. Joining the meeting was Gina Marie Beasley also with TopGolf.

I. Welcome

P. Williams called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

II. Introductions

He introduced Ashley Dora and Dave Lingafelter, the two new Fishers' appointments to the Commission. Unable to attend was the new Carmel appointment, Jamie Hopwood. Carmel has one additional appointment available. Each has had an overview about the Commission and how it works.

III. Review of the Minutes of the May 2019 Meeting

P. Williams asked for a review of the May 2019 minutes.

A. Huisden moved that the minutes be approved as presented. R. Pauker seconded. Motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. 2018 HCT Audit

B. Ekelof presented results of the HCT 2018 audit. The audit has been delivered to the State Board of Accounts and Hamilton County Auditor's offices and reviewed by both the HCT Board of Directors and Audit Committee, which included Robyn Pauker. New auditors Peachin, Schwartz & Weingardt Public Accountants conducted the audit review. No findings were cited in the review, and the audit was accepted by all. The Tourism Commission audit normally precedes the HCT audit but not this year. That audit should be completed soon. There were no questions by the Tourism Commission.

B. Community Support

B. Myers noted that Tourism Commission President P. Williams and HCT Board Chair Bob DuBois will meet this Fall with the mayors of Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville and Westfield to discuss 1) how tax revenues are generated; 2) how the HCT leadership team and Board determine that money will be spent; and, 3) how the cities, in addition to the county, can be involved in the decisions being made, in addition to appointments on the Tourism Commission which contracts with HCT. HCT revised its destination development investment program to better comply with the county's request to be more engaged. She will report out at the November meeting.

C. 2020 Appropriations Update

B. Myers noted that appropriations hearings were August 6 and seemed to go well.

V. Old Business

A. Attorney Selection – Proposed legal counsel Kris Kazmierczak with Katz Korin and Cunningham has had an orientation and learned more about any likely issues the Tourism might need legal support for in the future. He is willing to serve as counsel in the future. The Commission approved the officers negotiating terms with his firm. T. Pascoe and B. Smythe encouraged the leadership team to manage the overall budget for legal fees.

B. Office Updates

The proposed project is still in development. No new news to report.

C. Special Projects Update

B. Myers updated the Commission on progress being made re. revenue and refinancing for the Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad. There has been difficulty finding a bank partner interested in integrating the two notes – the railroad restoration loan currently held by National Bank of Indianapolis and guaranteed by the Tourism Commission and the equipment loan with Atlanta Pacific Rail and currently with NPHRR – into one new lower-interest note. Several suggestions were made and T. Burtron offered to review the financials if needed. A. Dora also agreed to review the loan package if needed and seek a bank partner.

D. Fishers & Carmel Additional Tourism Commission Appointments

Fishers has made both of its appointments and Carmel has made one of its two additional appointments.

VI. Financial Reports

2019 YTD HCT Budget Report

B. Myers presented the Tourism Commission budget report, which primarily shows pass-through revenue per the contract. She then presented the 2019 budget through July. All are tracking and on schedule. She provided written reports found in Boardable.com and on paper.

VII. Adjournment

B. Tolson moved that the meeting be adjourned; T. Burtron seconded. Motion passed.