

***REVISED**

**MINUTES – BOARD AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IRVING CONVENTION CENTER
Friday, March 10, 2023**

Those in attendance: Committee Vice Chair Sam Reed, Board Chair Robert Bourgeois, Board Vice Chair Richard Stewart, Jr, David Cole, Colvin Gibson, and Joe Philipp – Committee; Carol Boyer, Maura Gast, Susan Rose – ICVB Staff; Tom Meehan – ICC staff; Council Liaison Kyle Taylor.

Committee Vice Chair Sam Reed called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Reed asked for any citizen comments and there were none.

Reed asked for a motion to approve the Board and Business Development Committee minutes from December 9, 2022. With a motion from Board Vice Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., and a second from Board member Colvin Gibson, the motion unanimously was approved.

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS - UPDATES

Articles Included in the packet are:

- History of THLA State Advocacy Program
- USAE Nashville to Bid on 2028 Republican, Democratic National Conventions
- DeSantis Takes Over Disney District
- Disney's Response to Florida's New Law is a Master Class in How to Handle a Crisis
- Frisco City Council Postpones Vote on Universal Theme Park – Again

Handout Article:

- Big Bend Sentinel: Legislators File Bills on Use of HOT Taxes, Short-Term Rental Regulations
- Update: Frisco City Council Approves Zoning Permit for Universal Studios to Move Forward with Construction

Executive Director Maura Gast noted the Texas Hotel & Lodging Association will represent our priorities, but it will be an interesting session. The concerns are wide-ranging, and of major concern from a business impact is the number of discriminatory bills that have already been filed. These issues are getting attention and the trickle down is dangerous in the tourism industry. Gast was on a call last week with the Texas Travel Alliance for a weekly legislative update and the discussion was centered around a variety of gaming bills. They have previously not been able to get passed and may not come out of the Senate for a chance to be on the November ballot. Other TTA priorities are to continue to fight for uniform school start dates. The issue has been pushed by theme parks as summer vacation gets shorter and shorter reducing not only family travel times but workforce.

Gast gave updates noting:

- Funding for the Nashville Convention Center and CVB had been pulled off the table, due to a political fight over whether the organization should pursue the 2028 national party conventions.
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill in February that allowed him to appoint a five-member Board to Disney, significant because since its inception, Disney had been granted legal status that allowed it to create its own governing district, not unlike DCURD. The changes occurred when Disney, on behalf of its cast members (employees) and customers, protested the state

government's legislation known as "don't say gay," prompting legislation to be passed that stripped Disney of those property management rights.

- Frisco's City Council has since passed the zoning for the new Universal Studios children's theme park, but that passage was delayed as the community's initial reactions to the announcement were severe, particularly with concerns regarding traffic impacts.

Board Chair Bob Bourgeois gave a recap of his visit to Irving Day in Austin with the Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce. It was his first time attending the event. Several City Council members attended. All the legislative leaders spoke about the 2-3 Bills they were working on, and Representative Terry Meza spoke about Irving and the proclamation that was read on the *Legislative floor. Representative Giovanni Capriglione discussed a cyber privacy bill that has a lot of support, and an artificial intelligence bill. Office of the Governor Texas Economic Development and Tourism Executive Director Adriana Cruz spoke to the group about ARPA restaurant revitalization funds and expanding the program to include wineries but unfortunately not available tour operators who work with the wineries. The Deputy Controller spoke with the group on Texas Travel Industry recovery program for one-time reimbursement up to \$20,000 and homestead relief.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS

The Committee discussed the main priority to stay focused on is outreach to new City Council members, including new Council members who will be elected in May 2023. Gast noted the March Board Executive Committee meeting will highlight a quarterly Tourism Economics Report and a great opportunity for Councilmen Brad LaMorgese and John Bloch to attend. Gibson mentioned he has been communicating with LaMorgese and he has expressed his trust and faith in the CVB; however, attending in-person is invaluable.

ACTION ITEM: Council Liaison Councilman Kyle Taylor to reach out to Councilman John Bloch and extend an invitation to the March 24 Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Gibson to reach out to Councilman Brad LaMorgese and extend an invitation to the March 24 Executive Committee meeting.

Any accepted invitation should be communicated to Gast or Office Manager Carol Boyer for seating and catering purposes at any Board or Committee meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

Reed thanked everyone for attending and for their input. Reed asked Gast if there is anything the Committee can communicate to the City Manager or Mayor's office. Gast replied closer to budget season will reach out with some talking points for pre-budget discussions.

Reed adjourned the meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m. and noted the next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 9.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Allen Gast, FCDME
Executive Director