Board of Directors of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Met in a **REGULAR MEETING** Indiana Welcome Center 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond, IN 46323 Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 12:00 PM (CST)

# PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

# **MEETING MINUTES**

#### I. <u>REPORTS</u>

A. Roll Call

Chairman Andy Qunell called the July 15, 2021, meeting of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau to order at 12:08 P.M. (CST). President/CEO Speros A. Batistatos called the roll.

The roll call was as follows:

**Board Members Present:** Taryl Bonds, Brent Brachier, Christine Cash, Sal Espino, Bernie Grisolia, Peter Kilderis, Nikki Lopez, Darnail Lyles (arrived @ 12:19 PM), Matt Maloney, Andy Qunell, Patrick Reardon, Pete Schroeder, Matthew Schuffert, Larry Tucker, and Chareice White.

Board Members Present via Telephone: Tom Dabertin, Doug Spencer

Board Members Absent: Fred Koegel, Terry Velligan

**Staff Present:** President/CEO Speros A. Batistatos, Executive VP Katie Holderby, Chief Financial Officer Cathy Svetanoff, Chief Technology Officer Luke Weinman, Director of Human Resources Rik Brankle-Piszczek, Director of Communications Erika Dahl

Also Present: Attorney Scott McClure, Parliamentarian Andrew Kyres

B. Pledge Of Allegiance

# C. Review of Agenda

Member Matthew Schuffert asked for a motion to take the agenda out of order and move Agenda Item III.E.4 Other New Business: Compensation Committee Report and Discussion to this part of the agenda.

Hearing no further questions, Member Matthew Schuffert moved to approve the motion as submitted. Vice Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion.

YES NO ABSTAIN ABSENT Taryl Bonds \_\_X\_ \_\_\_\_ **Brent Brashier** \_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ Christine Cash \_\_X\_ \_\_\_\_ Tom Dabertin \_\_x\_ \_\_\_ Sal Espino \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_X\_ \_\_\_\_ Bernie Grisolia \_\_x\_ \_\_\_ Peter Kilderis \_\_X\_ \_\_\_ Fred Koegel \_x\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Nikki Lopez \_\_X\_ \_\_\_\_ Darnail Lyles \_\_X\_ \_\_\_\_ \_x\_\_ Matt Maloney \_\_X\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Patrick Reardon \_x\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Pete Schroeder \_\_x\_\_\_\_

Motion carried by vote Yes 16- No 0- Abstain 0 - Absent 3.

Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

## D. Compensation Committee Report and Discussion

1. Chairman Andy Qunell read a statement as follows "In an effort to allow for the opportunity to address the Board's concerns with respect to Speros Batistatos' compensation and to allow the Board's counsel time to discuss with his counsel a number of outstanding issues, I request a motion that Speros Batistatos be relieved of his day-to-day responsibilities effective immediately. While he will not be required to provide any services in his position as President/CEO of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, he will be paid during this timeframe. He will remain in this status until the earlier of the December 31, 2021, the end of this Employment Agreement or until the Board's counsel and his counsel successfully resolve the outstanding issues associated with his role as President/CEO of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau."

Treasurer Matt Maloney moved to relieve Speros Batistatos of his duties. Member Matthew Schuffert seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a vote of Yes 12- No 3- Abstain 1 - Absent 3.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash		_x		
Tom Dabertin	x_			
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis		_x		
Fred Koegel				_X
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles				_X
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x_			
Matthew Schuffert	x_			
Douglas Spencer	x_			
Larry Tucker		_x		
Terry Velligan				_X
Chareice White			_x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x_			

Secretary Chareice White tallied and announced the voting outcome of the motion and Speros Batistatos left the meeting.

# 2. Interim President/CEO

Chairman Qunell recommended to appoint CFO Cathy Svetanoff as Interim President/CEO and CFO. Chairman Qunell asked for a motion.

Treasurer Matt Maloney moved to appoint Cathy Svetanoff as Interim President/CEO. Vice Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding compensation. Member Brent Brashier suggested having discussion during Compensation Committee meeting. Chairman Andy Qunell asked for committee to bring recommendations back to the board for review. Member Taryl Bonds asked for compensation to be retroactive to July 15, 2021.

At the suggestion of Secretary Chareice White, the board asked Cathy Svetanoff if she would accept the position; Cathy accepted.

Motion carried to appoint Cathy Svetanoff Interim President / CEO by a vote of Yes 13- No 0- Abstain 2 – Absent 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds			_x	
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin	x_			
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			

Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles		_x
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer		
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

Member Christine Cash left the meeting after the discussion and before voting on the proposed motion.

## 3. Search Committee

a. Chairman Qunell asked for a motion to authorize the officers to research and recommend a search committee to commence with the search for a President/CEO.

Member Matthew Schuffert moved to authorize officers to research and recommend search committee. Member Bernie Grisolia seconded.

Motion carried by vote of Yes 15- No 0- Abstain 0 – Absent 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin	x_			
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles				_x
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			
Matthew Schuffert	x_			
Douglas Spencer	x			
Larry Tucker	x_			
Terry Velligan				_x
Chareice White	x_			
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x_			

Member Darnail Lyles joined the meeting in person after this vote.

# E. Report of the Executive Committee

None to present.

# F. Report of Standing Committee

None to present.

# G. Staff Report

Staff reports were emailed prior to the meeting and presentation was given by Executive VP Katie Holderby. Katie provided an update on social media, Live Chat, sports and partnership sales.

# II. OLD BUSINESS

# A. Regular Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2021

Chairman Andy Qunell asked for a motion to approve the May 20, 2021, minutes. Member Nikki Lopez moved to reject the May 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes because they incorrectly described the motion made by Vice Chairman Brent Brashier. Treasurer Matt Maloney seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 14 – No 0 – Abstain 1 – Absent – 4.

Member Tom Dabertin participated in this meeting prior to this time via phone however he dropped off the call prior to this vote.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds			x_	
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x

Tom Dabertin		_x
Sal Espino	x	
Bernie Grisolia	x	
Peter Kilderis	x	
Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles	x	
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

Chairman Qunell asked board members to recall the meeting and make suggestions to accurately reflect the meeting minutes. Corrections should to be sent to Executive VP Katie Holderby so the minutes can be revised.

# B. 2021 NWI Reception - Indiana Society of Chicago

Executive VP Katie Holderby reported that the 2020 contract and deposit paid carried over for 2021. The Indiana Society Dinner will take place Saturday, December 4, 2021. We are required to fulfill our contract with Loews Hotel, Chicago by hosting the reception.

Chairman Qunell asked for a motion. Treasurer Matt Maloney moved to support the 2021 ISOC NWI reception and make the next installation payment. Member Matthew Schuffert seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a vote of Yes 15 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent – 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			

Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	X	

## III. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

# A. Addition of New Items to the Agenda

Member Brent Brashier made a recommendation to create a position for board member emeritus for former board member W.F. "Bill" Wellman; an honorary non-voting board member for life.

Chairman Andy Qunell asked for a motion to add this item to the agenda. Vice Chairman Brent Brashier moved the create a board member emeritus potion for W.F. "Bill" Wellman. Member Darnail Lyles seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a vote of Yes 15 – No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			

Peter Kilderis	x	
Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles	x	
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

Chairman Andy Qunell asked for a motion and vote to extend to W.F. "Bill" Wellman board member emeritus, an honorary, non-voting position for life for former board member W. F. "Bill" Wellman.

Member Matthew Schuffert moved to extend to W.F. "Bill" Wellman the status of board member emeritus, an honorary, non-voting position for life. Vice Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 15 – No 0 - Abstain 0 – Absent 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x	·		
Matthew Schuffert	x_			
Douglas Spencer	x			
Larry Tucker	x_			
Terry Velligan				_x
Chareice White	x_			
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x_			

#### B. Approval of previous sets of minutes

Chairman Andy Qunell asked the board to approve five (5) sets of minutes including Executive Session Minutes from January 17, 2021, March 18, 2021, May 20, 2021, June 17, 2021 and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2021.

Hearing to further discussion, Vice Chairman Brent Brashier moved to approve minutes from the five (5) meetings. Member Bernie Grisolia seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of Yes 15 – No 0 - Abstain 0 – Absent 4

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			

Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker	x	
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

# **Point of Order**

Treasurer Matt Maloney made a point of order on the previous motion of the minutes. He stated that the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2021, should not have been included in the motion to approve previous Executive Session minutes.

Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2021. Member Matt Maloney made several corrections to correct that Chareice White should be referred to as Member not Treasurer.

Hearing no further questions, Member Matt Maloney moved to approve the minutes with corrections notes. Member Taryl Bonds seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 14 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x

Sal Espino	X	
Bernie Grisolia	x	
Peter Kilderis	x	
Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles	x	
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker		_x
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

# C. Finance Report

Chairman Qunell sought approval for vouchers #25305 through #25388 in the Amount of \$839,554.70 for July 15, 2021.

Hearing no further questions, Member Darnail Lyles moved to pay vouchers #25305 through #25388 in the Amount of \$839,554.70. Member Patrick Reardon seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 14 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			
Matthew Schuffert	x_			
Douglas Spencer	x	. <u> </u>		
Larry Tucker				_x
Terry Velligan				_x
Chareice White	x_			
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x_			

#### D. Resolutions

# 1. Resolution No. 2021-07-07: Additional Appropriations Resolution/Ordinance

CFO Cathy Svetanoff offered explanation on additional appropriations as submitted. Attorney Scott McClure clarified that staff cannot go above the approved amount as advertised. Chairman Qunell clarified that this is to move the money, not the approval to spend the money.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2021-07-07 by Member Patrick Reardon and seconded by Member Nikki Lopez. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 15 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 4.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			

Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker		_x
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

# E. New Business

# 1. 2021 Tourism Promotion Grant

Chairman Qunell sought approval for 2021 Tourism Promotion Grant applicants including the Town of Highland, City of East Chicago, Town of Munster and Town of Lowell each for \$20,000.

Hearing no further questions, Member Patrick Reardon moved to approve these applicants. Treasurer Matt Maloney seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 14 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			

Bernie Grisolia	x	
Peter Kilderis	x	
Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles	x	
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer	x	
Larry Tucker		_x
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

# 2. Conflict of Interest Forms

Chairman Qunell asked for board members to complete his/her Conflict of Interest Form and submit to staff.

# 3. Periodic Review of Materiality Threshold

Reference Resolution 2018-09-10: A Resolution Establishing Materiality Threshold For Reporting Irregular Variances, Losses, Shortages And Thefts

- a. Governmental activities \$2,000 or more
- b. Gift Shop activities \$500 or more
- c. Activities/Events off premises \$100 or more

Interim CEO and CFO Cathy Svetanoff provided an annual overview of Materiality Thresholds for the SSCVA. No changes are recommended at this time.

Chairman Qunell sought approval to approve the Materiality Thresholds outlined in Resolution 2018-09-10. Hearing no further questions, Member Darnail Lyles moved to approve the motions as submitted. Member Patrick Reardon seconded the motion as submitted. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 13 – No 0 – Abstain 1 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			

Matthew Schuffert	x		
Douglas Spencer		_x	
Larry Tucker			_x
Terry Velligan			_x
Chareice White	x		
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x		

# 4. Creation of a Benefits Committee

Chairman Andy Qunell asked the board to create a Benefits Committee and recommended Member Tom Dabertin as chair and committee members Nikki Lopez and Patrick Reardon. The committee will review with Desila Rosetti, the HR consultant hired earlier this year, to review employee benefits and make recommendations to the board. Members Pete Kilderis and Sal Espino as well as staff member Rik Piczek will also sit on committee.

Chairman Qunell sought approval for the formation of this committee. Hearing no further questions, Member Matthew Schuffert moved to create a Benefits Committee. Member Sal Espino seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of Yes 14 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_X
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			

Fred Koegel		_x
Nikki Lopez	x	
Darnail Lyles	x	
Matt Maloney	x	
Patrick Reardon	x	
Pete Schroeder	x	
Matthew Schuffert	x	
Douglas Spencer		
Larry Tucker		_x
Terry Velligan		_x
Chareice White	x	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x	

# 5. Ford Transit – Item #15 – Resolution 2021-07-07: Additional Appropriation Resolution/Ordinance

CFO Cathy Svetanoff asked for clarification on permission to spend the additional appropriation previously approved to purchase and issue the check outside of the board meeting to purchase the Ford Transit for use as the "tourmobile".

Chairman Qunell sought approval to purchase the vehicle. Hearing no further questions, Member Nikki Lopez moved to purchase the vehicle and issue the check outside the board meeting. This would ensure that the vehicle could be purchased without being sold to another buyer. The check would appear on the August 19, 2021 APV register. Member Patrick Reardon seconded the motion as submitted. Motion carries by vote Yes 13 – No 0 – Abstain 1 – Absent 5.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Taryl Bonds	x_			
Brent Brashier	x_			
Christine Cash				_x
Tom Dabertin				_x
Sal Espino	x_			
Bernie Grisolia	x_			
Peter Kilderis	x_			
Fred Koegel				_x
Nikki Lopez	x_			
Darnail Lyles	x_			
Matt Maloney	x_			
Patrick Reardon	x_			
Pete Schroeder	x			
Matthew Schuffert	x_			
Douglas Spencer			_x	
Larry Tucker				_x
Terry Velligan				_x
Chareice White	x_			
Andy Qunell, Chairman	x_			

## V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

#### A. **Public Comment**

None was received as no public attendees were present for the meeting.

#### B. Next Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 19, 2021, 12:00pm, Location TBA

## C. Upcoming Events

**National Softball Association World Series Opening Ceremonies –** Wednesday, July 21 – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Bulldog Park, Crown Point, IN – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor VIP Area

# IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing of no other business to come before the board, Chairman Qunell adjourned the meeting. Motioned by Member Tom Dabertin, seconded by Vice Chairman Brent Brashier. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m. (CST).

Approved:

Andy Qunell, Chairman

Attest:

Chareice White, Secretary

Date

Date