

**Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
Minutes of February 20, 2020
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The Board of Directors of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Met in a **REGULAR MEETING**
at South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority
7770 Corinne Dr., Hammond, IN 46323
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 12:00 P.M. (C. S. T.)
PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

I. Roll Call

Chairman Andy Qunell called the February 20, 2020 meeting of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau to order at 12:00 P.M. (C.S.T.). Secretary Chareice White called the roll.

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Paul Anderson, Christine Cash, Tom Dabertin, Jahnae Erpenbach, Darnail Lyles, Matthew Maloney, Chris Rich, Doug Spencer, Larry Tucker, Dr. W.F. "Bill" Wellman, and Andy Qunell

Absent: Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White

Also present were President/CEO Speros A. Batistatos, Vice President Katie Holderby, Chief Financial Officer Cathy Svetanoff, Chief Marketing Officer Heather Becerra, Chief Technology Officer Luke Weinman, Director of Communications Erika Dahl, Executive Assistant Peggy Parkinson, and Attorney Charles Albrecht.

Public Guest(s): none present

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

A. The pledge was recited.

III. Report Of The Executive Committees

A. None to present.

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IV. Report Of The Standing Committees

- A. None to present.

V. Staff Reports

- A. Vice President Katie Holderby stated the following:
 - 1. The Cruisin' with the Times car show would be in the Exhibit Hall through the end of April.
 - 2. The Annual Tourism Lunch would be here on May 6, 2020 – please make plans to attend.

VI. Old Business

- A. None to present.

VII. New Business

A. Addition of New Items to the Agenda

- 1. None to present.

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 1. Chairman Qunell sought approval of the Regular Meeting minutes from January 16, 2020.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member Chris Rich motioned and Member Darnail Lyles seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.

C. Finance Report

- 1. Chairman Qunell sought approval for vouchers #23909 through #24011 in the amount of \$832,073.25 for February 20, 2020.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member Matthew Maloney motioned and Member Christine Cash seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.

D. Resolutions

- 1. None to present.

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E. Other New Business

1. President/CEO Batistatos sought a motion to approve the Loews Hotel & Company contract in the amount of \$46,000 for the 2020 Indiana Society of Chicago annual reception for Northwest Indiana. Each sponsor pays \$1,500.00 for 10 attendees to offset event costs. The SSCVA also pays a \$1,500.00 sponsorship for the event.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin motioned and Member Doug Spencer seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.
2. President/CEO Batistatos sought a motion to write-off trade-out from Bartlett's Gourmet Grill and Tavern in the amount of \$1,603.59 due to the restaurant closing and inability to pursue legal action to collect payment.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member Dabertin motioned and Member Maloney seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.
3. President/CEO Batistatos sought a motion to approve a wire transfer outside of the board meeting to Warner Brothers. The payment is the annual licensing fee which applies to A Christmas Story, and is the only form of payment accepted by Warner Brothers (ACH or wire). This payment will appear on the March APV Register and is in line with the current approved contract.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member Dabertin motioned and Member Jahnae Erpenbach seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.
4. President/CEO Batistatos sought a motion to authorize a board signature on the agreement extending the America's Crossroads Bowl through 2022. The contract extension was approved at the January 16, 2020 board meeting.
 - a. Hearing no further questions, Member W.F. "Bill" Wellman motioned and Member Larry Tucker seconded to approve the motion as submitted.
 - b. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 11-0-0. Members Brent Brashier, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Kyle Ropac, Matthew Schuffert, Bridget Streck, Ed Welch, and Chareice White were absent.

VIII. Public Presentations

- A. Chancellor Thomas Keon and Matt Wells of Purdue University Northwest gave the board an update on university. They stated that they expect to see enrollment drop in 2026 due to a decline in birthrates. They currently have around 10,000 students, of which 1,500 are dual-credit high school students. They are making strides to become

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a premier metropolitan university while making improvements to their sport venues, impact lab and arboretum.

IX. Miscellaneous Matters

A. Dates to Remember

1. Meetings

1. **Next Regular Meeting** - Thursday, April 16, 2020 - Noon (C.S.T.) -
Boardroom- South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, 7770 Corinne
Dr., Hammond, IN 46323

X. Public Comment

- A. Two (2) minutes maximum per person or five (5) minutes for a group spokesperson. Please keep your comments civil and constructive to policy issues. The Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may recognize individuals wishing to speak on different topics at any time and may end the Public Comment Session. All speakers will be timed. This portion of the meeting shall not exceed then (10) minutes.

No public comments were made.

XI. Adjournment

Hearing of no other business to come before the board, Chairman Qunell adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. (C.S.T.).

Approved:

Andy Qunell, Chairman

Attest:

Chareice White, Secretary