# Board of Directors of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Met in a *REGULAR MEETING*

Marquette Park Pavilion 1 North Grand Ave. Gary, IN 46403 Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 12:00 PM (CST)

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

### **MEETING MINUTES**

### I. REPORTS

A. Roll Call

Chairman Andy Qunell called the July 15, 2021, meeting of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau to order at 12:00 P.M. (CST). Secretary, Chareice White called the roll.

The roll call was as follows:

**Board Members Present:** Taryl Bonds, Christine Cash, Tom Dabertin, Peter Kilderis, Fred Koegel, Matt Maloney, Andy Qunell, Pete Schroeder, Matthew Schuffert, Larry Tucker, Terry Velligan, and Chareice White.

**Board Members Absent:** Brent Brashier, Sal Espino, Bernie Grisolia, Nikki Lopez, Darnail Lyles, Patrick Reardon, and Douglas Spencer.

**Staff Present:** Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff, Chief Marketing Officer Heather Becerra, Chief Administrative Officer Rik Brankle-Piszczek, Director of Art Design Andrea Rivera, Manager of Accounting Megan Grezovski, and Manager of Sports Development Megan Goodan.

Also Present: Attorney Scott McClure, Parliamentarian Andrew Kyres

### B. Pledge Of Allegiance

The Pledge Of Allegiance was recited.

### C. Review of Agenda

Treasurer, Matthew Maloney asked for a motion to take the agenda out of order and move Agenda Item IV. A & B Presentations: Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary & Lorelei Weimer, Executive Director, Indiana Dunes Tourism & NITDC to this part of the agenda.

Hearing no further questions, Treasurer Matthew Maloney moved to approve the motion as submitted. Member Matthew Schuffert seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

### II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Jerome Prince, City of Gary
- B. Lorelei Weimer, Executive Director, Indiana Dunes Tourism & NITDC

## III. REPORTS (Cont.)

## A. Staff Reports

Cathy Svetanoff, Interim President/CEO & CFO

Heather Becerra, Chief Marketing Officer

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Regular Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2021

Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to approve the corrected minutes from the May 20, 2021 regular meeting. Treasurer, Matthew Maloney, made a motion to approve those minutes. Member, Matthew Schuffert, seconded the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote of Yes 12- No 0- Abstain 0- Absent 7.

	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 Ounell, Chairman	х			

# B. Conflict of Interest Forms- Board Member and Appointment Authority Completion

Chairman Andy Qunell, informed all members present that these forms need to be completed. Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff urged to members to fill them out quickly so forms can be submitted to the Lake County Government as required. Attorney Scott McClure indicated that he was available to assist with questions regarding the forms as well as reviewing the completed forms for accuracy.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

## A. Addition of New Items to the Agenda

1. Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to add a 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant application from the City of Gary for approval. A motion was made by Member Tom Dabertin to add the City of Gary grant application to agenda item E1. Tourism Jumpstart Grant applications being considered (incorrectly referred as Tourism Promotion Grant on agenda). Member Terry Velligan seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

2. Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to direct Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff to create an updated salary resolution to be presented at the next board meeting. Motion was made by Member Matthew Schuffert and seconded by Member, Tom Dabertin.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

## **B.** Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

## 1. Executive Session Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021

Member Taryl Bonds, motioned to approve the executive session meeting minutes from July 15, 2021. Member Terry Velligan, seconded that motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

## 2. Regular Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021

Chairman Andy Qunell, requested a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 15, 2021. Member Christine Cash, indicated that she would like a correction to those minutes.

Member Christine Cash stated that she abstained from voting to select Cathy Svetanoff as the Interim President/CEO & CFO and then departed following the vote. The minutes will be corrected to reflect this information.

Chairman Andy Qunell asked to make that correction. Member Tom Dabertin motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 15, 2021 subject to the change indicated by Member Christine Cash. Motion was seconded by Member Christine Cash.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

## 3. Special Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2021

Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes from August 6, 2021. Member Matthew Schuffert, motioned to approve. Member Terry Velligan seconded that motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

## C. Finance Report

Chairman Qunell sought approval for vouchers #25389 through #25496 in the amount of \$880,817.51 for August 19, 2021.

Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin moved to approve for payment vouchers #25389 through #25496 in the amount of \$880,817.51. Treasurer, Matthew Maloney, seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of Yes 12 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 7.

	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 Ounell Chairman	v			

#### D. Resolutions

1. REPEAL Resolution No. 2020-05-11: A Resolution Adopting the Continuation of Medical, Dental, Vision, and Life Benefits For Full-Time Furloughed Employees During an Emergency Situation

Chairman Andy Qunell, explained that this resolution was created to provide furloughed employees the continuation of medical, dental, vision and life benefits during an emergency situation. He indicated that we no longer have any staff in a furlough status therefore have no need for this resolution at this time.

Motion was made to repeal Resolution No. 2020-05-11 by Member Terry Velligan and seconded by Member Matthew Schuffert.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of Yes 12 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 7.

	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 Ounell Chairman	Y			

# 2. Resolution No. 2021-08-08: A Resolution Authorizing A Transfer Within The Promotion Fund For The 2021 Budget

Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff explained that this was to authorize movement of funds between appropriation numbers in two categories. The transfer would move funds from Promotion-Professionals to Promotion-Professional Services.

Chairman Andy Qunell asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-08-08. A motion was made by Treasurer Matthew Maloney and seconded by Member Matthew Schuffert.

Motion carried by roll call vote of Yes 12- No 0- Abstain 0- Absent 7.

	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. Other New Business

### 1. 2021 Tourism Promotion Grant

Chairman Qunell sought approval for 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant applicants including the City of Hammond, Town of Cedar Lake, and City of Gary each for \$20,000.

Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin moved to approve these applicants. Member Fred Koegel seconded the motion.

Interim President/CEO & CFO, Cathy Svetanoff asked the board if they would like for the City of Gary check to be issued prior to the next board meeting. If so, the board would be required to provide permission to do so.

Member Tom Dabertin amended his motion to include authorizing Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff to issue the check for the City of Gary 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant outside of a regular board meeting.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of Yes 12 – No 0 – Abstain 0 – Absent 7.

	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. Creation of President/CEO Search Committee

Chairman Qunell asked for a motion to utilize the current compensation committee as the President/CEO search committee as well with Member Matthew Schuffert as Chairman of that committee. Motion was made by Member Tom Dabertin and seconded by Member Terry Velligan.

The compensation committee includes members Matthew Schuffert (chairperson), Christine Cash, Nikki Lopez, Matthew Maloney, Darnail Lyles, Larry Tucker and Chareice White.

Motion carried by voice vote 12-0-0.

#### 3. Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance Renewal

Chief Administrative Officer, Rik Brankle-Piszczek, gave a quick explanation of the suggested plans for the organizations health benefit plans. He discussed the rate reductions that were received by Anthem MEWA as well as the savings that would be received by switching ancillary products to MetLife as the carrier. Finally, Rik and Member Tom Dabertin discussed phone the health benefit plans and H.S.A. funding; it was recommended that H.S.A. funding be \$3,000 annually for employee only enrollments and \$6,000 annually for all other enrollment classifications.

Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to approve the requested renewal recommendations. Member Tom Dabertin made the motion to approve and Member Matthew Schuffert seconded that motion.

The motion carried by a roll call vote Yes 12 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 7.

	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 Ounell Chairman	Y	

# 4. Creation of a Legislative Committee

Chairman Andy Qunell asked the board to create a Legislative Committee and recommended Member Matthew Schuffert as chair and committee members Terry Velligan and Patrick Reardon.

Chairman Qunell sought approval for the formation of this committee. Hearing no further questions, Member Taryl Bonds moved to create a Legislative

Committee. Treasurer Matthew Maloney seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote of 12-0-0.

Subsequent to the meeting, Member Taryl Bonds offered to also serve on the Legislative Committee.

## 5. Creation of Dillinger Committee

Chairman, Andy Qunell, discussed the potential need to create a committee to explore options for the John Dillinger artifacts owned by the Lake County Convention & Visitors Bureau. It was determined that another committee was not needed. Member Tom Dabertin agreed to preliminarily investigate options for appraisal and disposition and report back to the board of directors.

## 6. Approval to Spend - July 2021 Additional Appropriations

Interim President/CEO & CFO, Cathy Svetanoff, sought approval to spend additional appropriations on the following:

1. Outdoor trash cans: \$2,580.00

2. Water fountain/bottle filler: \$2,254.00

3. Floor Cleaner: \$6,300

Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to approve those expenditures. Motion was made by Member Tom Dabertin and seconded by Member Matthew Schuffert.

Motion carried by roll call vote Yes 12- No 0- Abstain 0- Absent 0.

	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 Ounell, Chairman	X	

# 7. Adjustment of 2021 Salary Resolution by the CFO as directed by the Compensation Committee

Chairman, Andy Qunell, asked for a motion to allow Interim President/CEO & Chief Financial Officer, Cathy Svetanoff, to adjust the current salary resolution No. 2020-12-16 to allow for adjustments agreed upon by the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors for review at the September board meeting.

Member Christine Cash motioned to approve and Member Larry Tucker

seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote Yes 12 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 7.

	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 Ounell, Chairman	x		

## 8. Miscellaneous Comments

Member Larry Tucker also inquired if we had received estimates to repair the roof of the Indiana Welcome Center. Chairman, Andy Qunell, indicated he was in talks with the architect of the building to work through this process.

## V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

### A. Public Comment

Public Comment was heard by Theresa Torres on behalf of Everybody Counts. She spoke her concerns regarding municipalities receiving 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grants without any requirements for ADA compliance to public attractions or festivals within their respective communities.

### B. Next Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021, 12:00pm, Location TBA

## C. Upcoming Events

R.O.S.E. and R.I.S.E. Awards

Wednesday September 22, 2021

Dean and Barbara White Community Center

Merrillville, IN 46410

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing of no other business to come before the board, Chairman Qunell adjourned the meeting. Motioned by Member Matthew Schuffert, seconded by Treasurer Maloney. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m. (CST).

Approved:	
Andy Qunell, Chairman	Date
Attest:	
Chareice White, Secretary	——————————————————————————————————————