

**Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
D/B/A South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority  
Minutes of September 16, 2021**

Board of Directors of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Met in a **REGULAR MEETING**  
Hammond Sportsplex & Community Center  
6630 Indianapolis Blvd, Hammond, IN 46323  
Thursday, September 16, 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 September 16, 2021, meeting of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau to order at 12:06 P.M. (CST). Interim President/CEO Cathy Svetanoff called the roll.

The roll call was as follows:

**Board Members Present:** Brent Brashier, Christine Cash, Tom Dabertin, Fred Koegel, Darnail Lyles, Matt Maloney, Andy Qunell, Pete Schroeder, Doug Spencer, Larry Tucker, and Terry Velligan.

**Board Members Absent:** Taryl Bonds, Sal Espino, Bernie Grisolia, Pete Kilderes, Nikki Lopez, Patrick Reardon, Matthew Schuffert, and Chareice White.

**Staff Present:** Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff, Chief Marketing Officer Heather Becerra, Chief Administrative Officer Rik Brankle-Piszczek, and Manager of Housing & Digital Content Candace Nowak.

**Also Present:** Attorney Scott McClure

**B. Pledge Of Allegiance**

The Pledge Of Allegiance was recited.

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**C. Report of the Executive Committee**

None to Present.

**D. Report of the Standing Committee**

None to Present.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS**

The meeting was taken out of order to allow Mayor Tom McDermott, City of Hammond, to welcome board members and guests and provide an update on the Hammond Sportsplex.

**E. Staff Reports**

Interim President/CEO & CFO Cathy Svetanoff provided an organizational update, including information about the upcoming ROSE/RISE Awards, 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grants, Indiana Society of Chicago Reception, and the Wall of Legends and its nomination process.

Chief Marketing Officer Heather Becerra provided an update around marketing efforts and the sporting events scheduled for fall 2021 and those events that would be upcoming.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Regular Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021**

Chairman Andy Qunell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2021 regular meeting. Member Terry Velligan made a motion to approve those minutes. Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 11-0-0.

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**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 and submit to Attorney Scott McClure for review. The SSCVA will need to submit for compliance.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Addition of New Items to the Agenda**

1. No new items were presented.

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

**1. Executive Session Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2021**

Member Tom Dabertin motioned to approve the executive session meeting minutes from August 19, 2021. Member Terry Velligan seconded that motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 11-0-0.

**2. Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2021**

Chairman Andy Qunell requested a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 19, 2021. Member Tom Dabertin motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 19, 2021. Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier seconded that motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 11-0-0.

**C. Finance Report**

Chairman Qunell sought approval for vouchers #25497 through #25587 in the amount of \$1,047,808.18 for September 16, 2021.

Hearing no further questions, Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier moved to approve for payment vouchers #25497 through #25587 in the amount of \$1,047,808.18. Treasurer Matthew Maloney seconded the motion.

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Motion carried by a roll call vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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_	___	___	___

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**D. Resolutions**

**1. REPEAL Resolution No. 2021-09-09: A Resolution To Amend Resolution 2020-12-16: A Resolution To Approve Salaries And Certain Salary Benefits For Employees Of The Lake County Convention And Visitors Bureau As Fixed By The Board Of Directors For The Year 2021**

Chairman Andy Qunell explained that this resolution was created to allow for the adjustments in salaries that was recommended by the Compensation Committee to the Board of Directors.

A request was made for the resolution to be read out loud. Attorney Scott McClure read the resolution per the request.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2021-09-09 by Treasurer Matt Maloney and seconded by Member Tom Dabertin.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

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

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**Other New Business**

**1. 2021 Tourism Promotion Grants**

a. Chairman Qunell sought approval for 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant application for the Town of Griffith for \$20,000.

Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin moved to approve the application. Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a voice vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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_

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Douglas Spencer	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Larry Tucker	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Terry Velligan	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Chareice White	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Andy Qunell, Chairman	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

**b.** Chairman Qunell sought approval for 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant application for the Town of Merrillville for \$20,000.

Hearing no further questions, Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier moved to approve the application. Member Terry Velligan seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a voice vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Taryl Bonds	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Brent Brashier	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Christine Cash	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Tom Dabertin	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Sal Espino	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Bernie Grisolia	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Peter Kilderis	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Fred Koegel	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Nikki Lopez	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Darnail Lyles	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>



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Matt Maloney	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Patrick Reardon	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Pete Schroeder	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Matthew Schuffert	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Douglas Spencer	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Larry Tucker	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Terry Velligan	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Chareice White	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Andy Qunell, Chairman	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

- c. Chairman Qunell sought approval for 2021 Tourism Jumpstart Grant application for the Town of Schererville for \$20,000.

Hearing no further questions, Member Larry Tucker moved to approve the application. Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a voice vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Taryl Bonds	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>
Brent Brashier	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Christine Cash	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Tom Dabertin	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Sal Espino	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>  X  </u>

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

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**2. Warner Brothers - A Christmas Story Update**

Attorney Scott McClure has attempted to contact Warner Brothers regarding the continuation of the contract for the A Christmas Story Comes Home exhibit. Until now, there was no confirmation from Warner Brothers that the contract would be renewed.

Chairman Andy Qunell suggested simply sending the appropriate payment with a new contract edited by Attorney Scott McClure to show good faith in trying to renew the contract. Attorney Scott McClure agreed to prepare an updated contract and submit to Warner Brothers for consideration and acceptance.

**3. John Dillinger Trouser DNA Request**

Interim president/CEO Cathy Svetanoff was contacted by Shane Williams of Mooresville, Indiana with a connection to the John Dillinger family home and property. Mr. Williams has requested DNA testing of John Dillinger's trousers owned by the SSCVA in order to link a map found on the Williams property to John Dillinger. Mr. Williams, along with former FBI Agent Stewart Filmore, will pay for the DNA testing process.

Chairman Qunell requested a motion to direct Cathy Svetanoff to pursue the DNA testing of the John Dillinger trousers.

Hearing no further questions, Member Tom Dabertin motioned to approve to direct Cathy to pursue the DNA testing. Member Darnail Lyles seconded the motion.

Motion carried by a voice vote of Yes 11 - No 0 - Abstain 0 - Absent 8.

**4. Pinball Museum**

Interim President/CEO, Cathy Svetanoff was contacted regarding the opportunity to purchase a pinball museum that has closed in Southern California.

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After discussion, the board decided to not pursue the opportunity. The person that suggested the idea was asked to contact the Mascot Hall of Fame in Whiting should the museum be interested.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

**A. Next Regular Meeting**

Thursday October 21, 2021, 12 pm, Indiana Welcome Center

**B. 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

**C. Public Comment**

Four members of the public made comments; only one person gave her name, Renee Jackson. All comments were regarding their concern of the lack of ADA accessibility at festivals and events. Chairman Qunell pointed out that all grants have been distributed as these comments have been surfaced.

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**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing of no other business to come before the board, Chairman Qunell adjourned the meeting. Motioned by Member Darnail Lyles and seconded by Vice-Chairman Brent Brashier. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. (CST).

**Approved:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Qunell, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chareice White, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date