

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
MUSKOGEE TOURISM AUTHORITY
JANUARY 19, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Muskogee Tourism Authority met at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 216 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, Oklahoma, with Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole presiding.

Item 1: Roll call and recognize Citizens wishing to speak. **(Tracy Cole, Secretary/Treasurer)**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole and the roll was called as follows:

Present: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson, Trustee Traci McGee arrived at 4:06.

Absent: Chair Daniel Chepkaukas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Tim Wheeler

Staff Present: Dr. Jerri Stoutermire, Chief Operating Officer; Jordyn Jorgeson, Tourism Director; Tammye Howell, Deputy Director of Tourism; John Tyler Hammons, Attorney; Angie O'Neal, Assistant to John Tyler Hammons; Jennifer Sweazy, City of Muskogee

Item 2: Consider approval of the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes, or take other necessary action. (Dr. Jerri Stoutermire)

Motion made by Trustee Aanje Wilkerson to approve the minutes as prepared, seconded by Trustee Mike Gragg.

AYE: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

NAY: None

OTHER: Chair Daniel Chepkaukas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Tim Wheeler

The Secretary/Treasurer declared the motion approved.

Trustee Traci McGee entered meeting at 4:06

Item 3: Consider approval of Muskogee Tourism Authority financials and claims for November and December 2022 or take other necessary action. (Dr. Jerri Stoutermire)

Trustee Mark Patel stated that he would like to have access to the financials at least one week prior to meetings to have more time to review. Dr. Jerri Stoutermire advised that a part time accountant has been hired to help with having financials in a timely manner. Trustee Mark Patel inquired about the amount paid to Oxford. Dr. Jerri Stoutermire advised that it served as incentive fee, voted by the board during last meeting, based on performance and what has been accomplished by staff. Trustee Mark Patel requested personnel expense breakdown, in which Dr. Jerri Stoutermire agreed, but Attorney John Tyler Hammons advised that each employee's deductions are confidential but could report the gross.

Trustee Mark Patel questioned why an attorney is present at the meetings. Dr. Jerri Stoutermire stated to keep correct order in meetings and for clarification for public trust. Trustee Mike Gragg added that the attorney's responsibility to keep board in line with Open Meetings Act.

Motion made by Trustee Mike Gragg to approve financials and claims, seconded by Trustee Traci McGee.

AYE: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

NAY: Trustee Mark Patel

OTHER: Chair Daniel Chepkas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Tim Wheeler

The Secretary/Treasurer declared the motion approved.

Item 4: Consider an appointment to the Muskogee Tourism Authority's Tourism Advisory Committee or take other necessary action. (Dr. Jerri Stoutermire)

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire informed the Board that Sara Gile was recommended to the Advisory Committee. Trustee Mike Gragg asked if the re-appointment is allowed in which Attorney John Tyler Hammons advised that Resolution No. 2 stated no term limits.

Motion made by Trustee Traci McGee to approve appointment, seconded by Trustee Mike Gragg.

AYE: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

NAY: Trustee Mark Patel

OTHER: Chair Daniel Chepkas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Tim Wheeler

The Secretary/Treasurer declared the motion approved.

Item 5: Receive reports from Oxford Productions, Inc. on the operation of the Visit Muskogee Tourism Program and the Roxy Theater. (Dr. Jerri Stoutermire)

Dr. Stoutermire discussed the Roxy events including the showing of the Tuskegee Airmen and appearance of Cuba Gooding, Jr. at the Roxy which resulted in a full house. Sponsorship information to be sent out for Oklahoma Movie Hall of Fame. The Oklahoma Incentive for Movie Makers was discussed along with clip from Gayle King's news report regarding the same. The NCAA tournament will be held March 8-11, 2023. Also discussed was the pause on the Civic Center partnership at this time. Grant Support Application for Bull Riding event on January 27 & 28, 2023 was received late. Discussion regarding event ensued resulting in a motion for approval and to award \$5000.00 money. Dr. Jerri Stoutermire and Jordyn Jorgeson discussed on education for application process.

Tammye Howell discussed a few things that she is working on including Family Motor Coach Association's Southwest Rally interest in Hatbox. The FMCA has 73,000 members and this could be a multiple year contract.

A call for the question was made by Secretary Cole regarding the discussion related to the BRI Tournament. A Motion made by Trustee Traci McGee to approve the amount of \$5000.00 to be awarded to the BRI National Rodeo Tournament, seconded by Trustee Sharon Champlain.

AYE: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mike Gragg

NAY: Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

OTHER: Chair Daniel Chepkas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Tim Wheeler

The Secretary/Treasurer declared the motion approved.

There being no other business before the Board of Trustees, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Daniel Chepkas
Chair

ATTEST:

Tracy Cole
Secretary/Treasurer