

MINUTES

**SPECIAL CALL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MUSKOGEE TOURISM AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

The Board of Trustees of the Muskogee Tourism Authority met in a Special Session at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at Muskogee Rougher Village located at 3200 E. Shawnee, Muskogee, Oklahoma, with Chairman Daniel Chepkauskas residing.

Item 1: Roll call and recognize Citizens wishing to speak. **(Daniel Chepkauskas, Chairman)**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Daniel Chepkauskas and the roll was called as follows:

Present: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mike Gragg;; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

Absent: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mark Patel

Staff Present: Dr. Jerri Stoutermire, Chief Operating Officer; John Tyler Hammons, Attorney; Angie O’Neal, Assistant to John Tyler Hammons

Item 2: Consider approval of Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2023, or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chairman)

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

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mike Gragg;; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

NAY: None

OTHER: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mark Patel

The Chairman declared the motion approved.

Item 3: Consider approval of financials and claims for January 2023, or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chairman)

Motion made by Trustee Traci McGee to approve financials and claims, seconded by Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs.

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mike Gragg;; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson

NAY: None

OTHER: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Mark Patel

The Chairman declared the motion approved.

Trustee Mark Patel joined meeting at 4:05

Item 4: Introduce meeting host (Muskogee Public Schools – Rougher Village Arena) and receive report on facility and the upcoming NJCAA Regional Basketball tournament, or take other necessary action.

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire informed board of Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall got called away and will join meeting later. Dr. Jerri Stoutermire gave overview of Tournament Committee for the upcoming NJCAA tournament to be held March 8-11th, 2023. Muskogee Public Schools readying Rougher Village for a successful tournament and looking for sponsorship and assistance with tournament needs. She discussed ticket prices and sponsorship levels.

No action taken on this agenda item.

Item 5: Consider approval of the Advisory Committee’s recommendations for the Tourism Support Grant program or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chairman)

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire reported that the Advisory Committee recommendation included a \$500.00 Tourism Support grant for the Muskogee Regional Junior Livestock Show and a \$500.00 Tourism Support grant to the Bedouin Shrine Creole event. Also, the Advisory Committee recommended funding for a permanent plaque as requested by the Muskogee Regional Junior Livestock Show. Jami Speir was recognized and declared the Muskogee Regional Junior Livestock Show was not interested in the plaque funding at this time. Finally, Dr. Stoutermire recommended an event sponsorship of \$500.00 to Hilldale Robotics State Tournament and \$500.00 to Oklahoma Senior Games.

Motion made by Trustee Traci McGee to approve \$500.00 to the Muskogee Regional Junior Livestock Show, \$500.00 to the Bedouin Shrine Creole event, \$500.00 to Hilldale Robotics, and \$500.00 to Oklahoma Senior Games, seconded by Trustee Tim Wheeler

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mike Gragg;; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson; Trustee Mark Patel

NAY: None

OTHER: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin;

The Chairman declared the motion approved.

Item 6: Receive reports from Oxford Productions, Inc., regarding the Visit Muskogee Tourism Program and the Roxy Theater or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chairman)

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire reported Bare-Poetry event on February 18, 2023 will be held at the Roxy. Tourism is hosting Bass Nation tournament in May. Working with Green Country Tourism on bus tours. Tammye Howell is will be Interim Director of Tourism. She also discussed by-laws allow for quarterly meetings, if the Board would like. Chairman Daniel Chepkauskas asked if there are added cost to have meetings, Dr. Stoutermire said minimal mainly time and effort. Chairman asked if meeting schedule was changed would it fall in line with grant request process, in which Dr. Stoutermire replied that if needed we could have Special Call Meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Traci McGee to accept report as given, seconded by Trustee Tim Wheeler.

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mike Gragg;; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson; Trustee Mark Patel

NAY: None

OTHER: Secretary/Treasury Tracy Cole; Trustee Sharon Champlin.

The Chairman declared the motion approved.

Dr. Jarod Mendenhall arrived at meeting and gave an overview of Rougher Village Project.

Board of Trustees then recessed at 4:27 for tour.

Dr. Mendenhall then gave a complete tour of the facility.

There being no other business before the Board of Trustees, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Daniel Chepkauskas
Chair

ATTEST:

Tracy Cole
Secretary/Treasurer