



Visitor Impact Task Force  
January 3, 2017  
3:00pm  
Palmer Events Center  
Meeting Room 1-2  
900 Barton Springs Rd.  
Austin, TX 78704

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance:**

Gavin Garcia, Music Industry Representative  
Catlin Whittington, Music Industry Representative  
Lulu Flores, Arts Community Representative  
Mari Ben Ramsey, Arts Community Representative  
James Russell, Special Events Industry Representative  
Julie Niehoff, Special Events Industry Representative  
Tom Noonan, Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Representative  
Shelly Schadegg, Hotel Industry Representative  
Bill Worsham- Public Safety Community Representative  
Alyson McGee- Preservation Community Representative  
Dan Keshet- Parks Community Representative  
Mark Tester- Convention Center Representative  
Dewitt Peart- Downtown Commission Representative  
Jonathan Mahone- Community Member Representative  
Ashwin Ghatalia- Tourism Workforce Representative  
Stephen Sternschein, Tourism Workforce Representative  
Pam Thompson- Environmental Community Representative  
Skeeter Miller, Restaurant Industry Representative  
Sara Hartley, Public Works Department Representative (ex-officio)  
Gordon Derr, Transportation Department Representative (ex-officio)

### **Absent:**

Skeeter Miller, Restaurant Industry Representative

### **Staff and Others In Attendance:**

Mark Washington, ACM  
Larry Schooler, CPIO, Facilitator  
Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department  
Carla Steffen, Austin Convention Center Department  
Terri McBride, Austin Convention Center Department  
Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy  
Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance  
Petu Mullan, Waller Creek Conservancy  
Clifford Gillard, Capitol Views Arts

# AGENDA

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:04pm by Larry Schooler

## 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. No Citizen Comments

## 3. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2016 Meeting

- a. Approval was made by Chair, James Russell's motion and Gavin Garcia's second
- b. Vote 16 -1, Skeeter Miller was absent
- c. Mark Tester, Austin Convention Center
  - i. Recused himself from all future votes on the agendas and remains as city staff member on the Task Force

## 4. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Introduction of the New Task Force Member that were absent on December 12, 2016 meeting
  - i. Ashwin Ghatalia, Jonathan Mahone and Dewitt Peart
- b. Discussion and possible action on the Selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair
  - i. James Russell was nominated as Chair. Votes 11, Skeeter Miller was absent
  - ii. MariBen Ramsey was nominated as Vice Chair. Votes 8 vs. 6 votes for Nominated Dewitt Peart as Vice Chair, Skeeter Miller was absent
  - iii. James Russell, Chair and MariBen Ramsey, Vice-Chair

## 5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Law Department (Leela Fireside) Training and Presentation on Ethics and Conflicts of Interests
- b. Overview of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (Leela Fireside)
- c. Current uses of the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds by Austin Convention Center (Carla Steffen)
- d. Current uses of the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds by Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Tom Noonan)

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Facilitator, Larry Schooler adjourned the meeting at 5:47pm

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For more information on the Visitor Impact Task Force, please contact Felicia Ojeda at 512.404.4022, [felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov](mailto:felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov).