



Tourism Commission  
September 4, 2018  
6:30pm  
City Hall  
Boards and Commissions Room  
301 W. 2nd St.  
Austin, Texas 78701

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance:**

Michael Searle  
Vanessa Fuentes  
Edward Bailey  
Rachel Magee  
Bill Bunch  
Scott Joslove  
John Riedie  
Mary Katherine Stout  
Kate Singleton  
Catlin Whittington

### **Staff and Other In Attendance:**

Mike Cannatti  
Ray Baray, Chief of Staff City Management Office  
Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department  
Leela Fireside, City of Austin, Law Department  
Sylvia Holt Rabb  
Kim McKnight  
Mark Tester  
Carla Steffen

## **AGENDA**

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by CMO, Ray Baray

### **2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: 3:34pm**

- a. No Citizen Communications

### **3. OLD BUSINESS: 6:34pm**

The Commission may discuss and take action on the following agenda items:

- a. Nomination and election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair
  - i. Motioned to move and continue Election for Commission Chair and Vice Chair until all 11 commissioners are present to vote.
  - ii. Self-Nomination by Commissioner, Catlin Whittington for Commissioner, and nominated Kate Singleton for Vice-Chair, 2<sup>ND</sup> By Commissioner, Vanessa Fuentes
    - 1. 5 Votes for Commissioner Whittington (Ed Bailey, Rachel Magee, Scott Joslove, Vanessa Fuentes, and Catlin Whittington)
  - iii. Nomination by Commissioner, John Riedie for Commissioner, Michael Searle for Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> motioned by Mary Katherine Stout
    - 1. 5 Votes for Commissioner Searle (Mary Katherine Stout, Bill Bunch, Michael Searle, Katherine Singleton, and John Riedie)
  - iv. 5/5 Split for Chair (Agreed by all commissioners that all elections will be moved as Old Business for next Meeting Agenda)
- b. Discussed the Bylaws of the Tourism Commission
  - i. Motioned to move and continue approval of the Commission Bylaws until all 11 commissioners are present to discuss and take action.
- c. Discussion of Commission housekeeping matters:
  - i. Future Meetings
    - 1. Consensus to meet, Monday, October 8 at 6:30pm
    - 2. Consensus to discuss future meeting times when all 11 commissioners are present to discuss and take action.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS: 6:45pm**

The Commission may discuss and take action on the following agenda items:

- a. General overview of Texas Tax Code Chapter 351 (use of Hotel Occupancy Tax) and Texas Local Government Code Chapter 334 (Sports and Community Venues) – Presented by the Law Department, Leela Fireside
- b. Discussion and possible action on the proposed FY19 budget and items related to tourism
  - a. Economic Development Department: 7:24pm presented by Sylnovia Holt Rabb
  - b. Parks & Recreation Department: 7:32pm presented by Kim McKnight
  - c. Austin Convention Center Department: 7:47pm presented by Mark Tester and Carla Steffen
- c. Commissioner Riedie- motioned to recommend to council to define and determine \$3 million dollars to be provided for the Grassroots (Local music/venues) Live Music Marketing in this budget cycle to attract new tourist.
  - a. Commissioner Joslove moved to vote with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Bunch.
    - 4 Votes for Yes (Bill Bunch, Michael Searle, Katherine Singleton, and John Riedie)
    - 6 Votes for No (Ed Bailey, Rachel Magee, Scott Joslove, Vanessa Fuentes, Catlin Whittington and Mary Katherine Stout)
    - Motioned failed

### **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 8:21pm**

- a. The Commission may discuss and identify future agenda items, topics, or presentations
  - i. Discuss and take action on Nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair
  - ii. Discuss and take action for future meeting schedules

- iii. Briefing on FY19 Budget by COA Budget Office
  - 1. Understanding of Tourism Budget process and what points of the year to reallocate funding items
- iv. Briefing on TX Tourism Report by Visit Austin
- v. Briefing from former Chair, James Russell, on Final Report of the Visitor Impact Task Force Committee
- vi. Background and Professional information how the tourism industry operates
  - 1. Other cities in Texas and what their budget looks like and how they operate their convention centers
    - a. San Antonio
    - b. Dallas
    - c. Houston
  - 2. What does their revenues/expenses look like?
  - 3. Competitive analysis of other markets/ budgets for conventions
  - 4. Other cities in the country
    - a. Nashville
    - b. Denver
    - c. Minneapolis
- vii. Briefing on Austin Convention Center Department of Expansion plans and schedule.
  - 1. University of Texas study recommendations for Convention Center expansion and have them present
- viii. Detail information from Austin Convention Center Department regarding \$52.9 million operates/ services expenditures.
- ix. What other cities in Texas doing for Transport for Tourist?
  - 1. What are best practices for this category?

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. CMO, Ray Baray adjourned the meeting at 8:47pm