



Tourism Commission
December 10, 2018
6:30pm
Austin Energy, Town Lake Center
721 Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX 78704

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Michael Searle
Edward Bailey
Rachel Magee
Bill Bunch
John Riedie
Mary Katherine Stout
Kate Singleton
Mike Cannatti
Catlin Whittington

Absence:

Vanessa Fuentes
Scott Joslove

Staff and Other In Attendance:

Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department
Nate Giernyn, Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism (Travel Texas)

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair, Catlin Whittington
- b. Roll Call of the Commissioners present (all present, minus Vanessa Fuentes and Scott Joslove)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. October 8, 2018 – approved by all commissioners
- b. November 13, 2018 – Approved with changes addressed.
 - i. Visitor Impact Task Force presentation was an Executive Summary briefing with a few highlighted recommendations discussed
 - ii. Future Agenda items to deliberate from Austin Convention Center and Visit Austin regarding Convention Center Meetings generating Hotels Rooms

nights, attendance and Visit Austin 990's

- iii. Discuss and possibly take action on scope of the Tourism Commission Board purpose and Bylaws amendments

- 1. Discuss the problems in tourism, brainstorm problems, issues problems within the scope of the commission board.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: 6:44pm

- a. No Citizen Communications signed up

4. OLD BUSINESS: 6:45pm

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

- a. Executive Presentation by Nate Gieryn, Tourism Research Manager from the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism (Travel Texas) regarding visitor date and reports
 - a. Commissioner Riedie request for a State level breakout description on the cultural, live music, museums of travel visits reported.

5. NEW BUSINESS: 7:21pm

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

- a. Reviewed the 2019 Legislative Agenda as approved by the Austin City Council on 20181018-015. No city staff was present.
- b. Motion was made by Commissioner Michael Searle and Commissioner Bill Bunch 2nd the motion. Motion was made for the following amendment: **Municipal Use of Local Hotel Occupancy Taxes**
 - a. Support legislation that empowers greater local control of how the City uses local hotel occupancy taxes, including expanding allowable uses in Austin to spending on homelessness, parks, watershed protection and preservation projects, arts and public safety.
 - b. Work with other large Texas municipalities to support legislation to expand the allowable uses of local hotel occupancy taxes.
 - c. Commissioners Votes For Amendment: Cannatti, Riedie, Searle, Bunch, Singleton, Stout; Commissioners Votes Against Amendment: Whittington, Bailey; Commissioners Abstained Vote: Magee
- c. Motion was made by Commissioner Bill Bunch and Commissioner John Riedie 2nd the motion. Motion was made for the following amendment: Support legislative that would expand the purpose of promoting tourism to include attracting the film, TV, video production projects of 6 months or less.
 - a. Commissioners Votes For Amendment: Riedie, Searle, Bunch, Singleton, Commissioners Votes Against Amendment: Cannatti, Stout, Whittington; Commissioners Abstained Vote: Magee and Bailey

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 8:14pm

- a. The Commission may discuss and identify future agenda items, topics, or presentations
 - i. Briefing from the Austin Convention Center, Attendance figures (Actuals vs. Estimates)
 - ii. Briefing from the Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts funding presentation

- iii. Discuss and possibly take action on scope of the Tourism Commission Board purpose and Bylaws amendments.
- iv. March Meeting date to be voted as a possible change

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair, Catlin Whittington adjourned the meeting at 8:23pm