



Tourism Commission  
June 10, 2019  
6:30pm  
Palmer Events Center  
900 Barton Springs Rd  
Austin, TX 78704

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance:**

Vanessa Fuentes  
Edward Bailey  
Rachel Magee  
Bill Bunch  
Lois Rodriguez  
Mike Cannatti  
Catlin Whittington

### **Absent:**

Alta Alexander  
Scott Joslove  
John Riedie  
Brian Rodgers

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

Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department, Staff liaison  
Scott Johnson, Sustainable Tourism Working Group

## **AGENDA**

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

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:43 pm by Chair, Catlin Whittington

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6:44pm**

- a. May 13, 2019 – Commissioner Fuentes motioned to approve minutes. Second by Commissioner Magee. Approved by all commissioners' present. (Fuentes, Bailey, Magee, Rodriguez, Cannatti, and Whittington)

### **3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL 6:45pm**

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS 6:54pm**

The Commission discussed the following agenda item:

- a. Discussion and formation of working groups
  - a. Motioned by Commissioner Cannatti, Parks and Environmental funding to explores how Hotel Occupancy Tax in the code chapters 351/or 334 could be qualified to apply towards those projects or other Tourism related funded strategies. Commissioner Fuentes second the motion. Commissioner Bunch joined the working group.
    - i. Recommendations of supporters for this working group to be brought to next meeting.
    - ii. All commissioners present approved the working group. (Fuentes, Bailey, Magee, Bunch, Rodriguez, Cannatti, and Whittington)
  - b. Motioned by Chair Whittington, Arts and Historic Preservation working group. Commissioner Bailey second the motion. Commissioner Rodriguez joined the working group
    - i. All commissioners present approved the working group. (Fuentes, Bailey, Magee, Bunch, Rodriguez, Cannatti, and Whittington)
    - ii. Quarterly meetings
  - c. Postpone the discussion of working groups to next meeting as Old Business to discuss Joint Sustainable Committee as far as options for a member of Tourism Commission to join the meetings
  - d. Motioned by Commissioner Cannatti, Short-Term Rentals working group. Chair Whittington second the motion. Commissioner Fuentes joined the working group.
    - i. All commissioners present approved the working group. (Fuentes, Bailey, Magee, Bunch, Rodriguez, Cannatti, and Whittington)

#### **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – 7:24pm**

The Commission discussed the following agenda item:

- a. Postpone working groups discussion
- b. Sustainability community groups working in the field with current efforts
- c. Visitor Austin, .4 cents tourism promotional campaign
- d. Professor Haywood Sanders discuss Convention Center expansion
- e. Broader look at economic development, how economic impact is formulated beyond just Hotel Occupancy Taxes, the different sectors between downtown and broader community as they relate to leisure versus group meetings
  - a. Understand downtown impact, Convention Center impact, Hotel Occupancy Tax generated in the Downtown corridor
- f. Homelessness funding and what programs they are looking to fund. How they are helping. What programs they are trying to bring online. More education on the topic. How homelessness impacts on their downtown businesses and tourism.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Chair, Catlin Whittington adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call or email Felicia Ojeda at the Austin Convention Center Department, at 512.404.4022, [felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov](mailto:felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov). for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

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