

SWITZERLAND COUNTY TOURISM
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 15, 2019

Meeting Information

These are the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of Switzerland County Tourism held Monday, April 15, 2019, at 6:00 PM at the Switzerland County TEC Building, Vevay, IN, 47043. The meeting was chaired by Sheri Works (President) and it was determined that a quorum was present. The following Members were present (in last name alphabetical order): Anita Danner, Barbara Davidson, Rhonda Griffin, Pam Haines, Andrea Kappes, and Stacy Streett, and Don Talbert. Steven Bennett was absent.

Others present include: Lacey Ekberg (Executive Director, SCT), Paula Myers (CFO, SCT), Stephanie Furnish (CPA), Paige Sawyer (Special Projects Manager, SCT), and John Kniola (guest).

Actions of the Board

A. General Business

1. The meeting was called to order. A request was made by Sheri Works to approve the Consent Agenda.

Rhonda Griffin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Pam Haines, Motion carries.

B. Presentations: None

C. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: None.

2. Directors Report: See board packet.

a. Phoenix Building Update: Lacey Ekberg reported that the orange team, who were scheduled to begin four weeks of digging, cleaning, and preparing the basement, was cancelled by the Town of Vevay due to other scheduled work.

Don Talbert made a motion to authorize \$32,656.00 for labor costs to dig out and prepare the basement of the Phoenix Building, seconded by Rhonda Griffin, Motion carries.

b. Lacey Ekberg announced that Indian Creek Photography will be closing by the end of the month.

c. A request was made by Rivertown Photo Booths to rent the retail space in the Phoenix Building. Due to the current and future construction the board decided not to enter into any rental agreements at this time.

d. Lacey Ekberg reported that she had a discussion with the Vevay Chief of Police regarding the no alcohol policy at the campground. Rhonda Griffin said she will take the issue to the Town Council President.

e. Revv Rally: Rhonda Griffin received a request from Galen Rayls regarding plans for dumpsters, port-a-lets, and overall cleanup of Ogle Park during the Revv Rally. Lacey Ekberg

said she will develop a plan. Anita Danner also requested a security plan and recommended contracting with Steve Zimmer who provides security for the Wine Fest. Lacey Ekberg will research the security needs and implementation.

D. Unfinished Business:

1. Building Update – See Directors Report. Lacey Ekberg stated she has tried contacting Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning to assist with design for the architectural and feasibility studies for the Phoenix Building, but cannot get a response. Anita Danner recommended that Lacey talk to Martha Bladen to see who were her specific contacts were when the Historical Society renovated the Thiebald Farmstead.

2. Carriage House: Lacey Ekberg reported that the building has been cleaned out and they expect to have the Visitor's Center moved in by 4.24.19.

3. Jack Sullivan Senior Citizens Center. There has been no decision yet. The three final organizations will meet with the county commissioners separately to explain their proposals.

E. New Business:

1. Paige Sawyer addressed serious concerns regarding how the public views and addresses Switzerland County Tourism staff, including the appearance that board members are not supporting board decisions. The board agreed that these issues need to be referred directly to the board. For future issues or complaints, the staff is encouraged to provide board member names and phone numbers.

2. Resignation and Replacement of Stephen Bennett: County Commissioners will be notified of the vacancy request.

3. Bylaws and Term Limits: Lacey Ekberg asked if there was interest in changing term limits in the bylaws. It was discussed that board members and terms are appointed by the county. Changes would need to occur at that level.

4. Marketing Retreat: The SCT Marketing/Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2019, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the Switzerland County TEC Building, Vevay, IN 47043.

F. Public Comments:

1. Stacy Streett announced that the Vevey Switzerland Wine Fest occurs this summer.

Don Talbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rhonda Griffin. Motion carries.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the SCT is Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Switzerland County TEC Building, Vevay, IN 47043.

SCT Secretary
Barbara Davidson

