

SWITZERLAND COUNTY TOURISM
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Meeting Information

These are the minutes of the meeting of the Switzerland County Tourism held Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the Switzerland County Tourism Visitors Center, Vevay, IN, 47043. The meeting was chaired by Pam Haines (President) and it was determined that a quorum was present. The following Commission Members were present (in last name alphabetical order): Jon Bond, Melissa Brush, Barbara Davidson, Mike Dean, Rhonda Griffin, Andrea Kappes, and Stacy Streett. Jon Charles Smith was absent but participated via telephone. Others present include Paula Myers (CFO, SCT), Martha Bladen, (Switzerland County Historical Society and Community Art Center of Switzerland County), Matt Hocker, John Kniola (Vevay Main Street, Historic Hoosier Theater, and Switzerland County Parks), and Jeremy Robinson (National Wild Turkey Federation).

Actions of the Board

A. General Business

The meeting was called to order. A request was made by Pam Haines to approve the Consent Agenda.

Rhonda Griffin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Jon Charles Smith, Motion carries.

B. Presentations:

1. Martha Bladen, representing the Switzerland County Historical Society and Community Art Center of Switzerland County, made a request for \$5,000.00 to support a feasibility study to augment the Art Center and museum for multi floor handicap accessibility. The two organizations are seeking additional grant funding from several other organizations.

Rhonda Griffin made a motion to grant \$5,000.00 (\$2,500.00 each to the Art Center and Switzerland County Museum) for a feasibility study toward improving the facilities' accessibility, seconded by Andrea Griffin, Motion carries.

Barbara Davidson will research whether or not the feasibility study will qualify for the Business Grant/Loan program. If not, funding allocation will be under special projects.

2. Jeremy Robinson, president of the six-county area representing the National Wild Turkey Federation, announced a turkey calling competition slated for June 13, 2020 at the TEC Building in Vevay, Indiana. The organization is nonprofit and the event is for all ages. The competition is a prequalifying event for the NWTF Grand National Calling Contest. Jeremy is requesting \$5,000.00 to fund advertising, trophies, and judges' expenses for the event.

Melissa Brush made a motion to grant \$5,000.00 for a National Wild Turkey Federation Calling Contest, held in Vevay, IN on June 13, 2020, seconded by Jon Bond, Motion carries.

C. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: No Report
2. Directors Report: See board packet for additional information.

D. Unfinished Business:

Feasibility Study. Site visit took place and we are waiting for their report.

E. New Business

1. Swiss Wine Festival Sign at Markland Dam.

A request was made to Joe Parham, Swiss Wine Fest President, for permission to use the lower half of their signage structure at the Markland Dam intersection, to advertise SCT events. In exchange, SCT will help with

maintenance of the signage structure. There was more discussion regarding the park board involvement and John Knlola stated he would look into it. We will address the issue again with the Swiss Wine Fest board.

2. Employee Handbook. Pam Haines addressed the need for SCT to adopt the employee handbook written by SCRTCC. Employees are hired under SCT, not SCRTCC. Changes will be to handbook and presented for approval at a future meeting.

3. Campground Management. There was discussion regarding the SCT management of the Ogle Park Campground relative to staffing level.

Barbara Davidson made a motion to return the campground management responsibility to the Town of Vevay, who is the rightful owner, seconded by Melissa Brush. Motion carries.

4. Dog Waste Stations. SCT purchased three stations and had them installed. They were removed and placed in storage because an agreement could not be reached regarding the waste collection responsibility. Pam Haines will address the issue with the Town of Vevay.

5. Ice Skating Rink. SCT purchased the artificial rink and equipment to use for events and to allow other organizations to use for fund raising. This has proven not to be cost effective based on insurance rates and usage.

Mike Dean made a motion to liquidate the rink, skates, and sharpener, seconded by Rhonda Griffin. Motion carries.

6. Staffing Plan. Final job descriptions are in process for the Executive Director and Office Manager positions. Please provide any additional input and recommendations.

7. Former Employee Information. Please refer any requests regarding former employees to Jon Bond. Jon will draft a public intake form for staff to use for future requests.

F. Public Comments:

1. Jon Charles Smith asked that we consider submitting Switzerland County to host two significant Indiana events. One is the annual Indiana Archaeological Council which is typically held in the fall. The second one is the Indiana State Preservation Conference which draws 300-400 attendees. We would need to partner with Belterra in order to host this event.

2. Pam Haines requested further discussion on our monthly meeting schedule based on board members' availability.

Rhonda Griffin made a motion to change the SCT monthly meeting from the third Wednesday of the month to the second Monday of the month, seconded by Jon Bond. Motion carries.

Melissa Brush made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrea Kappes. Motion carries.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the SCT is Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Switzerland County Tourism Visitor's Center, Vevay, IN 47043.

SCT Secretary
Barbara Davidson