

SWITZERLAND COUNTY TOURISM
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 23, 2019

Meeting Information

These are the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of Switzerland County Tourism held Monday, September 23, 2019, at 6:00 PM at the Switzerland County Visitor's Center, 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): Barbara Davidson, Rhonda Griffin, Pam Haines, Andrea Kappes, and Stacy Streett. Anita Danner and Wendy Harrison were absent.

Others present include: Paula Myers (CFO, SCT). Guests: Angie Priest, Andy Truitt, Melissa Brush, Ed Brush, and John Kniola.

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 Barbara Davidson, Motion carries.

B. Presentations: Angie Priest requests permission to tour the Phoenix Building during "The Original" Vevay Ghost Tour on October 25 & 27, 2019.

Rhonda Griffin made a motion to permit "The Original" Vevay Ghost Tour, access to the first and second floors of the Phoenix Building on October 25 & 27, 2019 seconded by Pam Haines, Motion carries.

Barbara Davidson will volunteer for October 25 and Stacy Streett will volunteer for October 27.

C. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee:

a. Sheri Works continues to obtain information regarding requirements for the executive director position. Board members are encouraged to submit requests.

b. Budget Committee: In the past, the Budget Committee consisted of members from the Executive Committee. This is not a requirement and we are looking to add other board members in developing the 2020 budget. Recent guidelines from the State of Indiana directs tourism offices to focus on marketing and not on events. SCT needs to inform organizations who submit funding requests of this change. Paula Myers will notify those organizations. It was decided that we will invite organizations to submit their budget proposals right before our next meeting at 5:00 pm on October 21, 2019.

c. Board Appointments: The County Commissioners have started advertising for the upcoming open board positions starting 2020.

2. Feasibility Committee/Feasibility Study:

Paula Myers presented a proposal from David Kroll of Ratio. The proposal will survey, assess, and make recommendations for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Phoenix Hotel. She also stated that Jared Holbrook of Indiana Landmarks, will assist in writing the first grant proposal for the feasibility study.

Pam Haines made a motion to accept the proposal from Ratio in order to pursue grants and matching funds for the feasibility study, seconded by Rhonda Griffin. Motion carries.

2. Directors Report:

- a. Sleepy Hollow: Paula Myers showed the car trophies for the event and announced that we have 30 vendors signed up.
- b. Camping Policy: We are waiting for approval.
- c. Bees: Paula Myers said she has had no success in finding a beekeeper to remove the hive in back of Visitor's Center. Angie Priest suggested that she contact the Southeast Indiana Beekeepers Association. They have a Facebook page and can reach out to many beekeepers in the area.
- d. Lewis and Clark Trail: The National Park Service sent SCT an invitation to add Vevay, IN to the Lewis and Clark Trail visitors' locations. It was decided that SCT should participate.
- e. YMCA Sponsorship: Paula Myers was asked by the YMCA if SCT would be interested in a sponsorship for their upcoming 5k walk/run. After discussion it was determined that SCT does not provide funding as a sponsor for event or groups.
- f. Paula Myers stated that Ann Farnsley announced her retirement at the end of October. Paula will provide more details when they are available.

D. Unfinished Business:

1. Carriage House:

Sheri Works stated that the Community Foundation is no longer interested in the Carriage House because the square footage does not fit their needs. There is someone interested in renting it on a limited basis.

Andrea Kappas made a motion to sell the Carriage House at our current price plus all closing costs, and to pursue renting it until sold, seconded by Stacy Streett. Motion carries.

2. Christmas Decorations on Main Street. Andrea Kappas reports that it does not seem practical to decorate Main Street buildings with Christmas lights covering the 1st and 2nd floors. Paula Myers reported that Allison Brown of Swiss Perks stated that businesses are moving forward. Andrea will follow up.

E. New Business:

1. AJ's Lease: SCT will rewrite AJ's lease to remove Virginia Garvey's name and add Wendy Kessler. All terms and dates will remain.
2. Basement Drainage Issue.

Andrea Kappas made a motion to direct the Executive Committee to obtain bids and estimates on separating AJ's drain line from the Visitor's Center, seconded by Rhonda Griffin. Motion carries.

F. Public Comments: Melissa Brush announced that she is seeking a board position on SCRTCC/SCT and attended the meeting to gain better understanding of the organization

Andrea Kappas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stacy Streett. Motion carries.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the SCT is Monday, October 21, 2019 at 5:00 PM at the TEC Building, Vevay, IN 47043.

SCT Secretary
Barbara Davidson