

SWITZERLAND COUNTY TOURISM
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Meeting Information

These are the minutes of the meeting of the Switzerland County Tourism board held Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 6:10 p.m. at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center, Vevay, IN, 47043. The meeting was chaired by Pam Haines (President) and it was determined that a quorum was not present. The following Board Members were present (in last name alphabetical order): Barbara Davidson, Matt Hocker, and Andrea Kappes. Jon Bond was attending another meeting would join this meeting shortly, thereby making a quorum. Mike Dean was absent.

Others present include Jon Charles Smith (Exec Dir, SCT), Paula Myers (CFO, SCT), and John Kniola (Guest).

Actions of the Board

A. Meeting Business was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A request was made by Pam Haines to suspend the approval of the consent agenda until a quorum was present.

B. New Business

1. Office Staffing: Pam Haines announced that Jon Charles Smith accepted the Executive Director position and resigned as a board member effective August 31, 2020. She also announced that Gloria Smith is on medical leave. Other board changes include: Melissa Brush resignation (medical reasons), Rhonda Griffin (personal reasons), and Stacey Street (personal reasons). Matt Hocker joined the board replacing Stacey Street effective September 8, 2020. The County Commissioners were notified of the resignations and announcements for the three open positions (vacated by Brush, Griffin, and Smith) will occur this week.

2. Jon Bond joined the meeting fulfilling the quorum requirement.

Barbara Davidson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Andrea Kappes. Motion carries.

3. Vice President Opening. A request was made by Pam Haines for Vice President nominations due to Melissa Brush's resignation.

Barbara Davidson made a motion nominating Matt Hocker for Vice President, seconded by Jon Bond. With no other nominations being made, motion carries.

4. Action Register Update: See attached document.

5. Monthly Meeting Location: Pam Haines announced that the meeting location will remain at the TEC center until the end of the year for social distancing purposes.

6. End of Term for Board Members: It was announced that Barbara Davidson and Pam Haines terms end this year.

Unfinished Business

1. Markland Dam Signage: We need volunteers to help clean and spot paint before we install new signs. A date will be set by the end of September.

2. Bee Removal: Paula Myers stated that the beekeeper who was working on removing bees had not returned her calls. She will look at other options.

C. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Pam Haines stated that we need to begin budget process for next year and plan to set a meeting for September 21, 2020. Organizations will present their budget requests prior to our next meeting at 5:00 pm on October 12, 2020.

2. Ohio River Recreation Trail (ORRT) Committee

a. Andrea Kappes reported that our submission to the Ohio River Recreational Trail for the River Town Review was approved. We are in round two after January 2021.

b. Andrea Kappes reported that the installation of two signs near the river area of Paul Ogle Riverfront Park will occur in the spring of 2021.

3. Director's Report. See update in board packet.

a. Jon Charles Smith requested approval for the draft feasibility study to accept it as written and final. **Barbara Davidson made a motion to accept the draft feasibility as final, seconded by Andrea Kappes. Motion carries.**

4. Financial Report. See update in board packet.

D. Public Comments

1. John Kniola presented information regarding car shows throughout the region and the success they have had. He stated that he has personally attended many of the events and actively marketed the Sleepy Hollow/Car Show event on behalf of Switzerland County. He questions the cancelling of the event when so many others in the area were not. Paula Myers explained that we had very minimal registrations from vendors and participants. Additionally, we would not have been able to adhere to the CDC guidelines with a staff of two. Board members apologized to John Kniola and expressed sincere appreciation for all his efforts in helping tourism.

2. Jon Bond announced that a letter to the County Commissioners had been approved for a revolving loan fund through OCRA.

Jon Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matt Hocker. Motion carries.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the SCT is Monday, October 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center, Vevay, IN, 47043.

Budget request presentations from funded organizations will begin at 5:00 p.m.

SCT Secretary
Barbara Davidson