

CONVENTION AND VISITORS COMMISSION

Virtual Meeting

12:00 noon
April 29, 2020

Commission Members Present:

Mike Campbell, Sean Hanlon, Tony Suttile, Natalie Walker and Kate Wiltz

Staff Members Present:

CVB – Mike McAfee, Laura Newton, Marcia Roach

DBI – Talisha Coppock and Joan Snap

Guest:

President Mike Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Michael Campbell asked if everyone had a chance to review the March, 2020 meeting minutes and were there any questions. There were no questions or comments. Tony Suttile motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Natalie Walker. All approved and the minutes were unanimously passed.

Financial Report:

President Mike Campbell reviewed the March financial summary along with the innkeepers collection report. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, Natalie Walker motioned to approve the financials seconded by Sean Hanlon. All approved and the financials were unanimously passed.

Presidents Report:

Mike Campbell presented a document that he presented at the Monroe County Council meeting last evening in which he forecasted tax collections through the end of this year and for 2021. He said he referenced an HVS study and STR reports modeling where he expects tax receipts to be in the upcoming months. He said the summer months reflected an amount 30-40% of normal expectations and a slow growth through the end of the year. He said he expected a U shape recovery versus a V shape. He said he expected a slow recovery as the economy opens back up and didn't see a full recovery until a vaccine is instituted. Talisha Coppock reported that the Convention Center had lost a lot of revenue but that many clients were rescheduling their event to fall and winter. She said they had applied and received a CARE act PPP loan which will replace much of that lost revenue and will allow them to keep their fulltime personnel. She said she suspended services such as catering and AV in order to minimize expenses. She also said staff was preparing for reopening under state and local guidelines and continuing social distancing and other mechanisms to implement a safe open.

Mike Campbell asked if they were in good shape to maintain personnel and utility payments and Talisha responded that they were in good shape through the end of the year.

Kate Wiltz asked about the PPP rules and would they be able to utilize the funds as required and they assured her they were.

Mike McAfee reported that Visit Bloomington was a 501 c 6 and under the PPP rules did not qualify for their loan. He said the state and national tourism boards were trying to get the rules changed to include others but that rule had not changed.

Mike said the visitor center closed on March 23 and would not open until local and state officials deemed it could be and that safety compliance would be implemented.

He said staff was preparing and putting plans together.

Mike reported the average hotel room rate was down 33%, demand down 70% and short term rentals were down. He said out of approximately 500 out of 2100 rooms were being rented monthly.

He said VB had cut expenses and he expected to be able to maintain personnel and utilities through the end

He said staff was working from home doing some program housekeeping, updated the web site to provide pertinent pandemic community information. National Tourism week was coming up and working on a video to thank the local hospitality workers. He said that staff was also working on a marketing reopen plan and explained that.

Natalie Walker remarked that the university dives much of the recovery and not much would change until they make a decision on opening up.

Tony Suttile said Fourwinds plans to open May 1.

Mike Campbell said that by asking VB and DBI to extend their recent disbursements from 3 to 4 months and other automatic transfers from the general fund they were able to save about \$373,000 to the general fund. He said the budget cycle was coming around and would be up for discussion at the next meeting.

Claims Approval:

No claims were presented.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

Public Comments:

No members of the public were present. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Roach
Acting Secretary