

Friday, November 10th, 2023

The Rock Port Tourism Board met Friday, November 10th, 2023, at 6 pm at Rock Port City Hall. Members present were Holly Huntley, Mark Schoonover, Jody VanSickle,, , Thea Lewis (by phone) and Kate Curry. Charlie Clodfelter, Tami Lansdown, Angela Mace, Ashtyn Beatty were absent. Emily Schulte and Jim Clodfelter were visitors present.

Meeting Agenda

Holly called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Kate moved to approve the meeting agenda. Holly seconded. All votes aye.

Meeting Minutes & Financials

Kate moved to approve the September 14th, 2023 meeting minutes. Jody seconded. All votes aye.

Holly moved to approve the September and October 2023 Financials. Kate seconded. All votes aye.

Holly moved to approve the 2024 Budget. Jody seconded. All votes aye.

Visitors & Presentations

Jim Clodfelter presented on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce with an option for Independence Day 2024 fireworks. The company offers an additional 15% in product if they pay before December 1st, 2023 and an additional 5% if they are willing to sign a 3 year contract. Our donation would be needed before December 1st for the next 3 years in order for them to take this offer. It was discussed that 2024 fireworks show would be on July 3rd. Thea inquired if we would be able to get a July 4th date in the future. Jim stated 2024 was not possible, but we may be able to the following years of the contract. Holly moved to approve a donation of \$5000. Jody seconded. All votes aye.

Jim also spoke about Old Fashioned Saturday Night. Stating that what they need the most is help/volunteers.

Projects & Events

Old Fashioned Saturday Night Recap

The ball drop seemed to work well with the age groups being separated. There were no complaints. Emily noted that there was more money left than expected compared to the amount of balls dropped. Discussed that maybe next year we need to have all hands on deck at the meeting prior to OFSN to count the balls out and that maybe some children did not know that they could exchange the balls for money (or maybe they didn't want to).

Proceeds from Band Nights

Holly stated we needed to nail down where we wanted to donate the proceeds from band nights before the beginning of the year. Band nights had brought in \$1,659. It was decided that it would be split three ways between C.A.R.E of Atchison County, Rock Port Food Bank, and the Rock Port Senior Center. All votes aye.

City Website Request

Emily presented the board with a letter and quote requesting the board consider covering the cost of the website renewal. She also requested that the board consider a multi-year renewal. Holly asked if it had a hit tracker on it. Emily stated she thinks it does and will investigate that further. Emily has been able to add business and athletic schedules to the website which has proved to be helpful to Rock Port citizens and visitors. The board asked if it was possible to get a discount if the city locked into a multi-year contract with them. Emily will look into that. Jody moved to approve the \$3,320 quoted amount for this year and a 2-year renewal. Kate seconded. All votes aye.

Fire Department Christmas Visit Candy Request

Scott Jones submitted a letter asking the board to consider helping to purchase the candy/fruit for the Santa visit again this year. After looking into what was approved the previous year, Holly moved to approve up to \$2000 toward candy/fruit. Jody seconded. All votes aye.

Other 2023 Events

Katey Kroeger sent a message asking if the board would be interested in helping the Theater Board with the Christmas movie again this year. The Grinch would cost \$300. Jody moved to approve. Kate seconded. All votes aye.

Holly asked if we were interested in decorating the light poles on Main St again this year with lights and garland. Holly will contact the city to find out when they plan on putting the Christmas lights up to see if they are willing to plug in our lights as they go, then we could follow and wrap each pole. This will be updated through the group text messages as she gets the date. Emily noted that she thinks what we have for this will work this year, but we may need to look into new stuff next year.

Holly asked if we would be interested in doing a Hot Chocolate Bar at the Christmas Mall December 2nd, 2023. It was discussed if anyone is already doing it as last year there was something similar. Holly will ask Megan. Updates will be via text message.

Holly had the idea to have a Christmas Lights Challenge- The Griswold Challenge. It was discussed that there would be 2 categories: Business and Residential. Prize options were discussed. It was decided that the winning business would win a trophy and bragging rights. Residential would have a 1st place and a 2nd place. 1st place would be a \$500 prize and 2nd place would be a \$250 prize. We would begin judging December 17th through December 23rd between the hours of 6pm and 9pm. Jody voted to approve a \$2000 budget. Kate seconded. All votes aye.

Storage Unit

Discussion about the possibility of a storage unit to store Tourism Board materials that can be accessed as needed by the Tourism Board. Emily stated she is going to coordinate

with the city workers to go into the storage and see what we have. Holly stated that she would be willing to go, also, if a date can be coordinated. We discussed the possibility of selling things that we do not need anymore. Thea will inquire about storage units near her workplace and Kate will inquire about storage units near her workplace.

Other Business

Other business to think about – Early 2024 Superhero Bowl, Summer Palooza planning will be starting soon, band nights starting in the summer, Kate will ask the high school art teacher about the possibility of the art department painting a mural on the wind turbine blade.

Holly stated she thought that one person heading each event would be a good idea.

The next meeting is set for December 14th, 2023, 6 pm at City Hall.

Jody motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Curry