

CHESTER TOURISM COMMISSION MINUTES January 20, 2016

Present: Brenda Owen, Toni Hosick, Lauren Rinne, Cynthia Lawder, Pam Fraley, Betty Wagner, Pete Spitler, Patti Carter, Carol Harrison, Norma Baughman, Linda Sympson, Bobbi Junkin

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	
Minutes	Cynthia convened the meeting in Sandra's absence. December minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.	Minutes filed.
Financial report	Patti gave a verbal report in Linda Rader's absence. Finances remain the same as last month with a balance of \$8474.68 and petty cash of \$118.86.	The report was filed for audit.
River Boats	Patti reported on the committee meeting held on January 6. She distributed a calendar with the dates the riverboats are scheduled to be in Chester. The committee suggests the Tourism Commission participate in a tour and create documents for the different tours required by each boat so each boat company will get the kind of consistent tour they are expecting. Patti also reported on the Holiday Rambler Recreational Vehicle Club tour on July 16.	Commission plans to tour Chester and complete documents to be used with each boat company.
Stone Cottage	Committee received a bid from Ted Mueller for painting in the right side room. New exterior back doors have been installed.	Next meeting scheduled for February 17
Publications	Stone Cottage Brochures: Norma reported that Joan Montroy was to bring a new interior photo to include in the brochure and Norma is waiting for that photo and then will forward to Mariah for printing. Tourism Commission Logo & cards: Pete emailed a draft logo to several members of the Commission for feedback. He questioned what would be necessary in order to include Popeye characters. Lauren responded that Debbie Brooks would have information regarding approaching King Features Syndicate with a request.	Norma will order brochures from Mariah. Sandra to report on cards in February.
Historic Preservation	Brenda received a response from Darius Bryjka, the consultant who previously worked with the In-Alliance group and who now works for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and she will follow up on the suggestions he gave for creating and RFP and identifying agencies that may be interested in bidding on our project.	Brenda to follow up.
Reorganization	Tabled until next month.	To be considered at February meeting.
Bylaw Revision	Tabled until next month.	To be considered at February meeting.
Post Cards	Tabled until next month.	Sandra will report in February.
New project ideas	Linda S. reported that Bob Platt had discussed an idea that was occurring in Litchfield called "The Pickers," a monthly flea market that drew tourists to the area. Linda discovered the event is sponsored by the Litchfield Tourism Commission and will follow up with them regarding logistics.	Linda will contact Tourism chair in Litchfield.
Total solar eclipse August 21, 2017 1:21 PM	Cynthia reported on an article published in the Southern Illinoisan. The article explained that there could be thousands of folks traveling to this area and that a large number of astronomers would be on the SIU campus for the event. Patti distributed copies of the article.	Cynthia will contact Tammy Grah at the library and the science department at the high school for interest in partnering with us in programming.
Welcome Center	Linda S. reported that the number of volunteers is dwindling. The City has taken over general maintenance and is doing a great job.	
Randolph Co. Tourism	The Eagle Fest has been rescheduled for March 5 at the Lock and Dam to allow for flood cleanup. Norma will be following up to get additional information regarding the Commission's helping with refreshments.	
City Council Update	No report.	
Christmas on the River	Patti reported that the theme for next year's event was, "A Dicken's Christmas Story." Friday events would include gazebo tree lighting, a Santa's village behind Pinky's, carriage rides, and carolers. Saturday events include the lighted parade at 7pm, craft vendors, Santa's arrival by barge, cemetery signs, Cole Park display, carriage rides, a quilt exhibit at the Cohen Home, and a home tour from 2:30-6:30.	
Other	Lauren reported she had submitted the ad/article to Scout Magazine. Betty mentioned that the Jackson County Courthouse was now on the National Register.	
Adjournment	Toni moved to adjourn. Pam Fraley seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.	Next meeting: February 17, 2016 @ 10:30 AM at City Hall.