

Manchester Tourism and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

Members Present-Lori West, Lori Watson, Lori Perry, Erin Kehely & Joseph Sherrill

Members Absent-Joey Hobbs

Others Present- AJ Fox, Becki Johnson, Rebecca French, Patrick French, Dominic Gialdini, Kim Childress, & Mary Beth Byers

Lori Perry called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. There was a quorum present.

Erin Kehely made a motion to approve the October minutes, Joseph Sherrill, seconded, motion carried.

Citizens Comments/Questions-Kim Childress, 6.4k race coordinator with Common John Brewery thanked the committee for their support, they had a great turnout for the race with 164 entries and 134 actual runners at time of race.

Rebecca French presented the committee with and option for 2 committee members to join her at the ABA Conference breakfast on January 14th. She would like to know if anyone would want to attend within 2 weeks and also if the committee had anything to give for goody bags that she would presenting to represent Manchester. Lori West stated that the committee had some leftover lapel pins to contribute and would get them to her.

Mary Beth Byers, President with Coffee County Fast Pitch Association, spoke to committee of past tournaments, future tournaments, and wanted to know what the committee and the recreation department could collaborate together on for growth of the ball fields and participation. Examples were given such as fencing, bat hangers, coverings of the seating areas etc.....Lori Perry stated to AJ that he and Mary Beth should speak more on the matter and have 2 items to the committee by February for possible improvements.

Manchester Chamber of Commerce-Katy Riddle was not present for the meeting due to other obligations, but had sent an email to Lori West of upcoming events such as the "Downtown Stroll" on December 15th. She also asked for the committee to be thinking of the upcoming Manchester Chamber of Commerce Gala held in January. Gala tables at Manchester Coffee County Conference Center usually sell out quickly and was advised MTCD would need to purchase quickly in order to reserve for MTCD nominee at the cost of \$1200.00 for a table of 10. Discussion was had on committee to go ahead and purchase the table and select the nominee in our January meeting.

Lori Perry made the motion to purchase the Gala table, Erin Kehely, seconded, motion carried.

Katy also let the committee know the Manchester rack cards which is part of the TNTD grant was about to go to the printer to be printed and distributed to the hotels, visitor centers, etc....Joseph Sherrill discussed there was a typo and wondered if it was too late to be fixed, Lori West said she would email Katy to see if the correction could be made.

Erin Kehely also added to the Chamber report as she is a Chamber Ambassador. Erin stated that on November 14th, the chamber had teamed up with MDS & Great Lakes Cheese and had made goody bags to hand out to chamber members for appreciation of their memberships.

Manchester Parks & Recreation-AJ Fox, stated the Manchester Christmas Parade was coming up on November 23rd and was wanting to ask for 3 committee members to judge the parade floats. Lori West and Erin Kehely volunteered and after discussion of other member scheduling conflicts, Lori West stated she would contact Joey Hobbs to see if he would be the 3rd judge.

AJ also stated that the "Trees of Christmas" would be held at the Ada Wright Center from December 4th-10th. As of date 13 trees had been submitted. Free to the public.

South Central TN Tourism Report-Dominic Gialdini was still working on the geocaching websites. He had stated there was also an additional app

named “Adventure Labs” it was a newer option and more interactive for users. He would have more information after the holidays.

New Business-Lori Watson presented the committee with a list of mission statements for the committee to choose from. Discussion was had over list and the mission statement that was chosen as follows:

“The mission of Manchester Tourism Board is to foster a sense of community and encourage economic growth by promoting tourism in our area”

Joseph Sherrill made to the motion to accept mission statement, Lori Perry, seconded, motion carried.

Old Business-Ice Rink Discussion-Lori West informed the committee that she along with AJ Fox, Becki Johnson, Mayor Marilyn Howard attended the bid process of the proposed ice rink on October 24th. They were encouraged by the amount of bids submitted to finance for selection. Upon further review of timeline it was discussed with finance that the process of securing funds for the project might not be achievable for the 2023 holiday season. All made the decision, in order to have a successful project for the community to enjoy, we would need to start earlier in the year of 2024 to be ready for the 2024 holiday season.

Exit 110/114 TDOT Light Grant Discussion-Tabled to January meeting.

Christmas Decoration Update-Lori West stated that she had spoken with Sage and that the new Christmas banners and Santa light display would be finished before the Christmas parade. The light up Santa display would be set up in front of City Hall. Lori West also stated that there had been some more banner poles purchased as anticipated due to the older poles possibly being in need to replacement. When Manchester Public Works started the process of installation of banners several poles needs replaced due to years of usage and some new banners were not fitting the old poles.

Committee Reports-Lori Watson, brought the flyer for Coffee Cares “Tour of Homes”. The event is to held December 2nd from 5-9pm. Tickets were to be purchased at Mercantile Sweet Simplicity at a cost of \$25.00 in which you would receive the map to the locations of homes decorated for the

holiday season. There would also be a silent auction held to benefit the efforts of Coffee Cares.

Lori West asked the committee if a decision could be made in advance on the December tourism meeting whether it should be held or canceled due to holiday scheduling conflicts of committee members. Discussion was held on cancelling December meeting, and starting fresh in January after the holidays. Next meeting January 8, 2024

Lori West made the motion to cancel December meeting, Lori Perry, seconded, motion carried.

Lori Perry made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Lori West, seconded, motion carried.

Adjournment 7:00 p.m.