

Manchester Tourism and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024

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

Members Absent-None

Others Present- AJ Fox, Becki Johnson, Katy Riddle, Nathan Havener, Margaret Milburn & Cathy Green

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

Citizens Comments/Questions-Margaret Milburn & Cathy Green representatives from Foot Hills Craft Association, spoke to the committee on a past funding request they had applied for. After discussion Lori Perry & Lori West asked for additional paperwork to be presented and invited the ladies back to the February meeting.

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

New Business-Nominations for committee elections were as follows, re-elect Lori Perry as Chairman, and re-elect Lori West as Secretary/Treasurer of the MTCD Committee.

Joey Hobbs made the motion to approve re-election nominations, Lori Watson, seconded, motion carried.

MTCD Gala Nominee- Nominations were discussed for the Manchester Chamber of Commerce 48th Annual Gala to be held January 28, 2024. Beans Creek Winery was the chosen nominee. Lori West stated to the committee that award had been made and that Innovations would just need the nominee's name to be engraved and she would pick it up and deliver to the committee member(s) who plan to present to nominee.

Erin Kehely made the motion to approve nomination, Joseph Sherrill, seconded, motion carried.

Hotel/Motel Tax Audit-Joey Hobbs asked the committee to table discussion on matter until the February meeting.

July 4th Fireworks/Band-AJ Fox presented the committee with the past display time and cost. Due to cost of fireworks, he wanted to know if the tourism committee wanted to collaborate and give the community and visitors a longer show. He had been in contact with Pyro Shows and current time was a 17-minute show at a cost of around \$20,000.00, each additional minute would be \$1000.00. Member discussed to add an additional 8 minutes for a total 25-minute show at the cost of \$8000.00 to be added to the contract of 2yrs in collaboration with MRD.

Lori West made the motion to purchase 8 additional firework minutes at a cost of \$8000.00, Erin Kehely, seconded, motion carried.

Becki Johnson would be looking into bands as she had some ideas in addition to committee members ideas and would like to hopefully have a plan worked out by February meeting.

Spring/Summer Banners-Discussion was had on the next banner purchase. Needed to go to the catalogs and pull examples of flag banners. Examples to be brought back to the committee in February for approval.

Old Business-Exit 110/114 TDOT Light Grant Discussion (tabled from November meeting)-Joey Hobbs presented the committee with discussion of a TDOT 50/50 grant the City of Manchester had applied for and received to replace the lighting on Exits 110 and 114. Contribution collaboration from committee to be a cost of \$50,000.00, the city would fund the remainder. Lori West was able to present the committee with tourism reserve fund balance.

Lori West made the motion to contribute \$50,000.00 to project, Joey Hobbs, seconded, motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report-Katy Riddle discussed upcoming January 28th. Manchester Chamber Gala. Needed to know names of attendees of tourism reserved table to be presented to her as soon as possible. Erin

Kehely would reach out to nominee Beans Creek Winery and get the number of guests.

Katy gave a report on the ARP Grant, tourism was granted \$67,000.00. She gave paperwork of the specifics of what it could be spent on and deadline of June 30, 2024 to spend funds. After discussion of ideas, Lori Perry asked Katy to look into ideas further and report back to committee at the February meeting.

Katy also informed the committee on the upcoming TNTD Blizzard Reimagined Conference, to be held February 13-14 at Montgomery Bell State Park. Katy stated a member of the chamber attended the previous year. Erin Kehely stated she would possibly attend, Lori West stated that anybody attending, she would need to know ASAP to register person(s).

Manchester Parks & Recreation Report-AJ reported he and Becki would be attending a TDEC Workshop, fencing for ball fields were being looked into, Westwood Middle School had a collaboration going on with MRD, more updates would be more forthcoming at next meeting.

SCTTA Report-No report.

Committee Reports-No reports.

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

Adjournment 7:10 p.m.