Grant County Tourism Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

The Tourism Commission meeting was called to order by Amanda at 9:30 am via Webex and in person.

Attendance:

Tourism Commission: District 1: Shawn Cardwell, Corinne Isaak, District 2: Amanda Laramore, Lynne Lynch, Bev Shuford District 3: Susan Parker, Sandra Marcusen, Charles Jenkins
Absent: Guests: Bill Burke, Jerry Gingrich, Brittany Lutz, Harry Hayter, Pam Thorsen, Ron Sawyer

Approval of Minutes: No minutes were presented or reviewed at this meeting.

Budget Report/Finance Review: Bev reviewed the budget and shared 41% of the total budget is remaining as of April 2022. A large number of Expenses were paid in January, February, and March, and the budget will be monitored closely moving forward.

Watershed Update: Lynne shared that the meeting had a great turnout and that it’s moving in the direction of becoming more formalized so that members can have voting rights. She shared that this year appears to be on track for increased water flow.

Bill Burke: Bill provided the group with his most recent budget and the breakdown of each section of money spent to date. Bill shared he will be working on the budget for next month to reallocate money so that there are no deficits in any section. Bill provided an update on his correspondence with Mathew in regards to the 2022 Rural Tourism Support Program and the decision to wait a year before participating. The group discussed possible participation on the Scenic Byways Coalition- more information will come forward over the next month. An update was given on the framed posters for the Commissioners, they should be received by May 2. Bill shared that he has reached out to Joshua with the Bureau in regards to the blue algae signs with no success this far, he will continue to reach out so that the signs can be placed. Bill also discussed the brochure tour and providing generous amounts of posters as well during the tour. The March social media report was provided to and reviewed by the group.

Bill provided the group with two invoices:

#1 in the amount of $42,159.07 for publication and campaign materials/costs.  
#2 in the amount of $274.00 for phone services and mailing fees.

Sandra made the motion to approve the above invoices, and Amanda seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Trade Show Update: Bill shared the breakdown costs of each trade show with the group. Bill shared the total spent on trade shows was $29,767.97 leaving a remaining balance of 232.03. Bill asked for approval to move the remaining balance to the television budget to utilize the monies in that area. The group discussed utilizing the money in local publications rather than television expenses. No motion was needed to move forward with utilizing the money in a different area.
Clerk Update/ Correspondence: Brittany- No topics to discuss. Jerry started with correspondence received which was an invitation from the Columbia Basin Concert Series. Jerry also provided a group with a fully executed copy of their LTAC Grant. He provided discussed current openings in the Commission and provided the group with information on two applicants again. There is one opening in District 1. It was decided to present County Commissioners with Rachelle as their recommendation for District 1 (motioned by Corinne, seconded by Bev). Jerry also discussed with the group their travel budget and getting reimbursed mileage for those who qualify. Jerry also reminded the group that the Clerks no longer have access to books etc. to mail out, it is recommended that the point of contact be the Tourism Commission phone and e-mail for such requests. Jerry also brought to the boards attention that they are currently paying for a unit at Yenney Storage which is mostly empty. The group discussed that a unit in Moses Lake would be more beneficial as would provide easier access and closer access to I-90.

New Business: Ron was present in today’s meeting representing himself and his business, he shared with the group that there is an open seat on the Watershed Council that is looking to be filled by an internal member of the Commission as a voting member and gained the groups’ input. The group decided that they found the importance of being part of the Watershed Council as a voting member, Lynne agreed to take on the role.

Sandra discussed with the group talking with Austin Allred from the Royal Slope area in regards to his Agri tours and providing more opportunities for such in Grant County. The group was interested, and Sandra will reach out to get more information and a possible schedule of tours.

- All meetings, for the foreseeable future, will be conducted via in-person and teleconference option. Number & times to be provided.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. by Amanda.

The Next Tourism Commission Meeting is:

- **Grant County Courthouse, Room #101**
- **Wednesday, May 18th, 2022**
- **9:30am**
- **In-Person & WEBEX!**