Grant County Tourism Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022
The Tourism Commission meeting was called to order by Shawn at 9:30 am via Webex and in person.

Attendance:
Tourism Commission: District 1: Shawn Cardwell, Rachelle Haven
District 2: Bev Shuford
District 3: Susan Parker, Sandra Marcusen, Charles Jenkins
Absent: Amanda Laramore, Lynne Lynch
Guests: Bill Burke, Jerry Gingrich, Harry Hayter, Pam Thorsen

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

Wild Horses Monument Discussion: Bill brought up the fact that a newly energized committee spearheaded by Forrest Govedare (son) has about 25 members. Lisa Brown, State of Washington, is involved in the committee (to some degree). The meeting was done at Don Hamilton’s studio and centered around the completion of the artist’s dream – Grandfather Cuts Loose the Ponies. The artist (or the estate) believes they maintain ownership of the horses. Maintenance on the horses has always been an issue & concern for all involved. It was said that discussion happened about it becoming a park and the State may be interested (Lisa Brown). Discussion ensued and Bev believes that tourism should not be involved in this. Bill brought up the fact that Grant County owns the right to the image and the land the sit on. Attorneys are or will be involved as this is going to be about exclusive rights, ownership and potentially abandonment. Jerry was directed to contact the prosecuting attorney’s office and gather more information regarding legalities. This is tabled until July retreat meeting for discussion.

Budget Report/Finance Review: Bill previously provided invoices to Amanda, Shawn & Bev for review. They reviewed and recommended approval of payment. A motion by Sandra and seconded by Susan to approve the following invoices:
• June 2022 Invoice $48,078.41
• June 2022 Invoice #2 $755.00
Motion passed by unanimous vote 6-0.

Watershed Update: No update at this meeting.

Blue/Green Algae Update: Shawn discussed the Tourism Commission meeting with the County Commissioners and how they are unaware of the funding concerns and the lack of information.

Bill Burke: Bill provided the group with his most recent budget and the breakdown of each section of money spent to date. He detailed information regarding the Tourism sign located at Sea-Tac Airport and the exposure it provides. He also brought framed prints for the County Commissioners to hang. He discussed the following:
• The challenges with getting the new signs installed for the Blue/Green Algae. He cannot get a return phone call from the BLM folks.
• We have 1 Kiosk remaining that needs to be removed and/or replaced located at the truck stop off Kittleston Road. It will cost approximately $500-1,000 to remove and 12,500-20,000 to install a new one. Can tourism apply for LTAC grant for Kiosks?
• Soap Lake historical sign will cost approximately $6,500 to “renew” it and $13,500 to replace it. Main
cost is posts. Sandra may know where to get posts and will get back at next meeting. Historical signs continue to be a concern for budget since they are potentially "capital improvement". Bev feels we need to finish the last sign at Soap Lake, and she will get with Amanda for more discussion.

- Fishing booklets are being reprinted and will be ready for distribution.
- Was able to get current Gorge photos for marketing purposes.
- We have more than 100 Visitor Information Center (VIC) mailings within the state.
- Bags are a huge hit, and we are out of them.

**Harry Hayter – Publisher:** We are out of travel planners other than what we have on hand.

**Jerry – Clerk:** Corinne Isaak resigned, effective immediately. The Commissioners will provide a thank you letter and county coin to her for her service and announce the vacancy for district 1.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. by Shawn.

**The Next Tourism Commission Meeting is:**
- **Wednesday, July 20th, 2022**
- **9:00am – 2:00pm**
- **Voltage Coffee House**
  - 140 Spokane Way
  - Grand Coulee, WA 99133