

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION APRIL 5, 2016

The Tourism Advisory Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 4:00 p.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center with the following members present, to-wit:

Mike Coston
Chet Patel
Rae Priestley
Virginia Reeder
Brad Smiley
Toni Clay

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager

others present: Blake Wilson, Kelly Driscoll, Deborah Deas;

constituting a quorum at which time the following proceedings were enacted, to wit:

CONSENT AGENDA:

A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2016 REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Member Reeder seconded by Member Smiley, approving the minutes of the March 1, 2016 Regular Session Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

HEAR PRESENTATION FROM THE EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM REGARDING TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS.

Kelly Driscoll gave a presentation over the East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society. She stated that the Arboretum consisted of over 100 acres. She further showed all of the venues and events that the Arboretum currently has.

CONSIDER JOINING NORTH EAST TEXAS TOURISM COUNCIL

Member Coston stated that this is an opportunity to belong to a group of about 35 different communities in the area. This group meets once a quarter, and it is a great way to spread the word of any local events that might be approaching. The membership is \$225 per year.

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager, stated that he would contact the appropriate people to continue the membership for the City of Athens.

A motion was made by Member Priestley, seconded by Member Clay to continue involvement in the North East Texas Tourism Council. The motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN

There was not discussion

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S UPDATE

Member Reeder stated that all four (4) of the local wineries have partnered with the local Art Galleries in Athens for an event called “. Member Reeder presented a poster that had all the information regarding the event. It will be April 22

Member Coston stated that April 12, 2016 there will be the young entrepreneur at TVCC.

Member Patel stated that Saturday April 9, 2016 the Athens Egg Fest will be taking place at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Member Smiley stated that TVCC Cardinals are hosting a softball tournament for a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Mr. Kombos stated that the event “Celebrating the Texan” will be held this Saturday April 9th. Engineers and architects will be at the Texan Theater Site for an initial visit.

Mr. Kombos gave an update on the financials for the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Fund. He stated that he is almost ready to present his recommendation to the City Manager regarding the fund, this is tentatively set to present to Council at the Vision Workshop in May.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 5TH DAY OF JULY, 2016.

Mike Coston, Chairman

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

