

REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

The Tourism Advisory Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 4:00 p.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 W. Corsicana St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Virginia Reeder
Beth Faulk
Deanne Boswell
Toni Clay

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager
Jessica Savage, Finance & Compliance Specialist

others present: Cody Robson and Deborah Deas;

with the following member absent; Brad Smiley, Chet Patel

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

INTRODUCE NEW TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEMBER

Councilmember Beth Faulk was introduced to the Tourism Advisory Council Committee

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ELECTING TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL
CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

A motion was made by Councilmember Boswell, seconded by Councilmember Clay to elect Councilmember Patel as Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, seconded by Councilmember Boswell to elect Councilmember Reeder as Vice Chairperson. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2016
REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, seconded by Councilmember Boswell, to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2016 Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER RECOMMENDING DOWNTOWN UTILITY BOX
ART PROJECT

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager, advised the council that the “utility boxes” are traffic control boxes that are managed by TXDOT. He stated that Council would have to seek permission from TXDOT to conduct an art project on the boxes.

Councilmember Reeder asked if this project would be something that we could utilize the Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds (HOT Funds) for. Mr. Kombos stated that to develop tourism in the downtown area, funds from the Hotel Occupancy Tax can be utilized to fund arts promotion. He further stated that \$5,000 has been budgeted in the FY 2017 budget for arts promotion reflecting the legal usage of Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds (HOT Funds). Mr. Kombos stated that this project will be a way to “showcase” the local and aspiring artists in the area. He further stated that if permission is not granted by TXDOT to conduct the art projects on the utility boxes, we can look in different directions.

Mr. Kombos suggested to continue to pursue the utility box art project and even possibly consider running it as a pilot program. He further stated that if it is a success, then possibly appoint a Public Arts sub-committee that can begin to focus just on the art projects.

There was further discussion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, seconded by Councilmember Reeder, to recommend the Utility Box Art Project to the City Council contingent upon TXDOT approval. The motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN

Councilmember Reeder spoke about an event called Outdoor Paint hosted by Southwestern Watercolor Society of Dallas on October 8th here in Athens.

Deborah Deas spoke about the Fall Festival at the Arboretum on October 8th.

Cody Robson stated that he likes the ideas of the art projects that were presented.

There was further discussion.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER’S UPDATE

There was no update

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ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2017.

Chet Patel, Chairman

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary