



Tourism Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 09, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall

The September 9th Tourism Commission meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

1. This meeting will take place via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326710303?pwd=0lzYIE6b6O4DvVQHd5aAfKhed5JgSu.1>

Meeting ID: 893 2671 0303

Passcode: 092686

Commission members Belschner, Famularo, Hammer, Roelke, Walcott, and Walker were present. Staff liaison Bennett was present. Craig Henrickson was present on behalf of the Columbus Redbud Players.

The meeting was properly noticed.

Roelke motions to approve the agenda. Belschner seconds. Motion approved unanimous vote.

2. Famularo motions to approve the minutes from August 12, 2024, with the addition of clarification that the project under item #4 is referring to print marketing materials. Roelke seconds. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

No public was present to comment and no correspondence was received.

Unfinished Business

3. After inquiring three times each, the nominees for officers were Walcott for Chair, Famularo for Vice Chair, and Walker for Secretary. There were no other nominations. Belschner moves to elect the nominated officers. Walker seconds. Motion passes by roll call vote: Hammer - aye, Roelke - aye, Walker - aye, Belschner - aye, Walcott - aye, and Famularo - aye.
4. Katie Nichols will be presenting a final report on behalf of the Columbus Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission at the October meeting regarding its \$1,000 room tax funding application for its Summer Concerts Series.
5. Bennett gave the Tourism Commission an update regarding the 2025 proposed Tourism budget. After meeting with the Treasurer, the proposed budget amendments may include projected decrease to room tax contribution, adjusting the contribution to the general fund line item for projected increased staffing costs, and decreasing the amount requested for carryover.

The Commission discussed the proposed amendments and would like to meet with the Treasurer to inquire further about the decrease to the carryover request. Hammer and Famularo will meet with the Treasurer and the Administrator to discuss further.

New Business

6. Craig Henrickson presented to the Commission on behalf of the Redbud Players for its application for \$3,105 in room tax funding towards a couple of plays. Belschner assisted in answering questions on behalf of the Redbud Players. Roelke questioned how much of the request is for operational expenses which is against the guidelines in the application. Belschner was confused at

the questioning and asked that expenses incurred for creation of the production should count. Walcott would like the application sent back and resubmitted for the next meeting. Famularo motions to deny the application and allow for reworking and resubmission for the October meeting. Roelke seconds. Motion passes by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstain. Bennett will add discussion for outlining qualifications of expenses to a future agenda.

7. Bennett announced that the kayak rentals have been installed at Rotary Park. As per previous discussions, the Tourism Commission planned to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new installation. The ribbon cutting will take place in Rotary Park at 9:30 am on September 14, 2024. Hammer will get a ribbon with the Chamber of Commerce providing the giant scissors. Famularo will make a press release.

Bennett reported no new revenues. \$18,922.39 has been spent in 2024 so far with \$24,677.61 remaining in this year's budget. Expenditures incurred in August include \$71.91 to the Media/Web line item for renewal of GoDaddy domains and \$151.85 to the Marketing/Advertising line item for Google Ads.

Hammer motions to adjourn the meeting. Walker seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 7:42 pm by unanimous vote.

These minutes will be approved at the next Tourism Commission meeting and may be corrected or amended then.

Submitted by David Bennett, Communications & Economic Development Coordinator