



Visitor Impact Task Force
May 16, 2017
3:00pm
Hyatt Regency Austin
Hill Country Room
208 Barton Springs
Austin, TX 78704

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Gavin Garcia - Music Industry Representative
Catlin Whittington - Music Industry Representative
Lulu Flores - Arts Community Representative
MariBen Ramsey - Arts Community Representative
James Russell - Special Events Industry Representative
Julie Niehoff - Special Events Industry Representative
Tom Noonan - Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Representative
Shelly Schadegg - Hotel Industry Representative
Bill Worsham - Public Safety Community Representative
Alyson McGee - Preservation Community Representative
Dan Keshet - Parks Community Representative
Mark Tester - Convention Center Representative
Dewitt Peart - Downtown Commission Representative
Ashwin Ghatalia - Tourism Workforce Representative
Stephen Sternschein - Tourism Workforce Representative
Pam Thompson - Environmental Community Representative

Absent:

Jonathan Mahone - Community Member Representative
Skeeter Miller - Restaurant Industry Representative
Richard Mendoza - Public Works Department Representative (ex-officio)

Staff and Others In Attendance:

Larry Schooler, CPIO, Facilitator
Carla Steffen, Austin Convention Center Department
Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department
Ghislaine "Qi Dada" Jean, Community Member Representative for Jonathan Mahone
Mike Cannatti, Donated Ted Siff
Alvan Angelle, Spectrum Theatre Company
Fred Schmidt, Austin Sister Cities International
Liz Wiley, Austin Sister Cities International
John Howard, Dell
Scott Joslove, THLA
Ted Siff, Parks/ Historic Preservation Coalition

Staff and Others In Attendance: (con't)

Scott Blalock, White Lodging

Roy Benear, PSAV

Nailah I. Sankofa, Tiwantiwa: Abibiman Afrikan Artisans Collective and Runway Underground

Zenobia C. Joseph, African American Visitors Center, Dedrick–Hamilton House and Cap Metro

Girard Kinney, ALA, Citizen (Local Business)

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:03pm by Chair James Russell

- 1. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2017 Meeting**, all voters approved minus the absence of Task Force Members, Jonathan Mahone, Skeeter Miller and Richard Mendoza.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chair, James Russell continued the discussion of recommendations to present to City Council.
- b. Music Industry Recommendation presented by Task Force Members, Gavin Garcia and Catlin Whittington
- c. Heritage Grant Program Draft provided by Task Force Members, Alyson McGee and Dan Keshet, and Pam Thompson
- d. Recommendations presented by Task Force Members, Stephen Sternschein and Julie Niehoff
- e. Global Sustainable Tourism Recommendation presented by Task Force Member, Pam Thompson
- f. No actions were taken at this time by the Task Force members.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: 5:30pm

- a. Alvan Angelle, Spectrum Theatre Company
- b. Fred Schmidt, Austin Sister Cities International
- c. Liz Wiley, Austin Sister Cities International
- d. John Howard, Dell
- e. Ted Siff, Parks/ Historic Preservation Coalition
- f. Scott Blalock, White Lodging
- g. Roy Benear, PSAV
- h. Nailah I. Sankofa, Tiwantiwa: Abibiman Afrikan Artisans Collective and Runway Underground
- i. Zenobia C. Joseph, African American Visitors Center, Dedrick–Hamilton House and Cap Metro
- j. Girard Kinney, ALA, Citizen (Local Business)
- k. Scott Joslove, THLA

4. OLD BUSINESS – resumed- 6:10pm

- a. Motion was taken by Task Force Member, Dan Keshet to extend the meeting until 7:30pm; all members voted yes to this motion.
- b. Discussion on Key Question & Interests for the Task Force Members to consider.
 - i. Should the Convention Center Expand?
 - ii. Round Robin took place to have Task Force members stated their vote.
 - iii. No actions were taken at this time by the Task Force Members.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 7:35pm

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For more information on the Visitor Impact Task Force, please contact Felicia Ojeda at 512.404.4022, felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov.