



Tourism Commission  
May 18, 2022 - 3 pm  
Hybrid via Video Conferencing and  
City Hall Chambers Room 1001  
301 W. Second St.  
Austin, Texas 78701

## **MINUTES**

### **In Attendance:**

Greg Chanon  
Ed Bailey  
Rachel Magee  
Bill Bunch  
Ken Smith  
John Riedie  
Mike Cannatti

### **Absence:**

Alta Alexander  
Lois Rodriguez

### **Staff and Other In Attendance:**

Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department, Staff liaison  
Trisha Tatro, Austin Convention Center Department, Director  
Katy Zamesnik, Austin Convention Center Department, Chief Administrative Officer

## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm by Chair, Rachel Magee

## **2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. No Public Communications

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the March 21, 2022, minutes.
  - i. Vice Chair Smith moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Chanon seconded the motion.
  - ii. Commissioner Cannatti request a spell check for Joy Casnovsky name.
  - iii. March minutes received unanimous approval votes by commissioners.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed the following agenda item:

- a.** Report from the Austin Convention Center Department, Director Trisha Tatro and Chief Administrative Officer Katy Zamesnik
  - i. Commissioner Chanon asked clarification from presentation
  - ii. Commissioner Bunch requested updated financial analysis on this expansion update presentation, requested a summarize of the financial model, requested operational cost report during construction phase, share the RFQ of the architectural design and services
  - iii. Commissioner Bailey requested clarification of the different phases of demolition, number of hotels to during the construction- expansion phase, and Commissioner Smith requested number of rooms with the new hotel growth
  - iv. Commissioner Cannatti asked about expansion concepts and revenue
  - v. Chair Magee requested convention center business throughout the city to minimize event jobs, construction- expansion concept compared to other city convention centers

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed the following agenda item:

- a.** Election of the Vice Chair position
  - i. Commissioner Riedie motioned to nominate Commissioner Smith as Vice Chair. Commissioner Chanon seconded the motion.
  - ii. All commissioner (Chair Magee, Commissioners Cannatti, Bailey, Chanon, Smith, Riedie, and Bunch) voted with approval of Commissioner Smith's nomination as the newly appointed Vice Chair.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission discussed the following agenda item:

- b.** Report from the Parks and Environment Working Group on any updates or make new appointments
  - i. Commissioner Cannatti updated the board on a new appointed member of the working group.
    - a. George Cofer, Hill Country Conservancy
- c.** Report from the TPID working group on any updates or make new appointments
  - i. Commissioner Riedie had no new announcements
- d.** Discuss Bylaws of the Tourism Commission Board (scope of work)
  - i. Commissioner Bailey - Request Visit Austin, Sports Commission to receive a better understanding of the tourism attraction of sports within the city or other nearby cities
  - ii. Explore other revenue streams to help foster the HOT for the cultural arts groups

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Commission may discuss and identify future agenda items, topics, or presentations.

- a.** Commissioner Bunch, request Professor Sanders return to present in future meetings
- b.** Commissioner Riedie, request briefing by AHLA on the impacts of hotels while the convention center closes for expansion project
- c.** Commissioner Riedie, request a Short-term Rentals and Airbnb representative in the Austin area to present about regulations on registration and in exchange increase HOT
- d.** Commissioner Bunch request the additional information from the Austin Convention Center Department when available within the next meetings
- e.** Commissioner Cannatti request public communication from neighborhood communities regarding the Short-Term Rental
- f.** Chair Magee request a presentation on how the hospitality workers and those that work in live events, including art organizations are impacted by the current economic state

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- a.** Vice Chair Magee adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm.

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For more information on the Tourism Commission, please contact Felicia Ojeda at 512.404.4022, [felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov](mailto:felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov).