



Visitor Impact Task Force
March 14, 2017
3:00pm
Hyatt Regency Austin
Hill Country Ballroom
208 Barton Springs
Austin, TX 78704

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Gavin Garcia - 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
Dan Keshet - Parks Community Representative
Mark Tester - Convention Center Representative
Dewitt Peart - Downtown Commission Representative
Ashwin Ghatalia - Tourism Workforce Representative
Pam Thompson - Environmental Community Representative
Richard Mendoza - Public Works Department Representative (ex-officio)

Absent:

Catlin Whittington - Music Industry Representative
Bill Worsham - Public Safety Community Representative
Alyson McGee - Preservation Community Representative
Stephen Sternschein - Tourism Workforce Representative
Jonathan Mahone - Community Member Representative
Skeeter Miller - Restaurant Industry Representative
Gordon Derr - Transportation Department Representative (ex-officio)

Staff and Others In Attendance:

Mark Washington, ACM
Larry Schooler, CPIO, Facilitator
Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department
Jay Blazek Crossley, Urban Life in Downtown Austin
Bill Bunch, SOS Alliance
Kate Singleton, Preservation Austin
Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:05pm by Chair, James Russell

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Jay Blazek Crossley, Urban Life in Downtown Austin
- b. Bill Bunch, SOS Alliance
- c. Kate Singleton, Preservation Austin
- d. Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy

3. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2017 Meeting, all voters approved

4. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Austin Convention Center Department, Carla Steffen presented the Overview of Local Tax Contributions by Visitors

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Panel Discussion with Austin Hotel Industry Representatives on Impacts of Tourism on Hotels– Gene McMenamin (Omni Hotel), Drew McQuade (W Hotel and AHLA Chairman), Erik Jensen (Hyatt Hotel), and Douglas Manchester (Fairmont Hotel)

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Requested that the Task Force Members review the notes from the Post-it Notes from February 28, 2017 Meeting on initial ideas for recommendations to deliver to City Council in future report

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Discussed possible recommendations on items for future agendas

8. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 5:35pm

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Larry Schooler at Communication and Public Information Office Department, at 512.974.6004, larry.schooler@austintexas.gov for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

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