

**NATCHEZ CONVENTION PROMOTION COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:03 pm**

Commissioners Present: Katie McCabe, Lance Harris, Helen Moss Smith, & Dana Wilson  
Commissioners Absent: Barbara Bruce  
Staff: Darrell White, Lynsey Smith, Stratton Hall, & Katie Ernst  
Guests: Peyton Cavin & Mayor Dan Gibson:  
Online – Jennifer Combs, Sarah Lindsey Laukhuff, Walter Tipton & John Norris

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

- Lance called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Helen Smith motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting November 18, 2020.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to approve the minutes from the special call meeting of November 30, 2020.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to approve the minutes from the special call meeting of December 2, 2020.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCIALS**

- Peyton Cavin presented the financials including the payment docket

**Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to accept and approve the payment docket and financials as presented.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## VISITORS

- Mayor Dan Gibson discussed tax revenues and recovery efforts in Natchez including sales taxes receipts, the housing market, and building permits. Mayor Gibson discussed the dock project as well as a bond issue. The bond issue discussed would include a 2% lodging tax increase in order to fund \$8,500,000 in projects including the Grand Village, sports and recreation facility, NAPAC, Broadway development, and renovations to the Natchez Convention Center. The mayor answered several questions regarding the potential bond issue and took under advisement a request to create the special tax utilizing stand alone legislation that would be separate from the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission's enabling legislation.
- Walter Tipton discussed the group meeting market trends and provided a report of current and upcoming bookings.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Lynsey Smith provided an update on the Shift South campaign including it was waiting final approval from the Adams County Board of Supervisors.
- Lynsey Smith provided an update on the previous funding request for Music on the Bluff event held over the weekend citing it followed all necessary COVID compliance.
- Lance Harris provided for the record and for the official minutes a copy of correspondence regarding the previous funding requests for Movies on the Mississippi.
- Katie McCabe presented for the record an email approving funding for Christmas in Natchez in the amount of \$4,000.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Lynsey Smith presented multiple funding requests.

**Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to approve the Tourism Economic Recovery Funding Request for the Vidalia Beautification Committee for New Year's Eve Firework Display in the amount of \$3,000.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- Lynsey Smith presented a funding request for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration which will be taken up via electronic communications due to lack of quorum with Lance Harris recusing himself.

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to table the funding request presented by Marsh Marketing for the Euro Auto Fest until a later date.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to table the funding request presented by Pure Strength Studio pending additional information on dates and other funding sources.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- Discussion occurred regarding funding events and budgetary constraints with the need to wait until after February to consider budget adjustments to increase the amount available to fund events.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to go into closed determination for executive session at 2:59 pm.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts, at 3:00 pm.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to return to regular session at 3:48 pm.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **PRESIDENT / CHAIRMAN REPORT**

- Lance Harris reported that he has worked with Darrell White and Lynsey Smith to get the Time Looper project off the ground.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Lynsey Smith reported the STR reporting contract just ended and needs to be renewed in order to satisfy reporting requirements for the Mississippi Tourism Recovery Funding.

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to approve and engage with STR contract for a total amount of \$3,960 for the monthly trend and monthly daily reports.**

- **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, January 20,2021

**ADJOURN**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to adjourn at 3:57 pm.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Attachments: Agenda

Movies on the Mississippi correspondence

Christmas in Natchez funding approval

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Lance Harris, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Katie Johnson McCabe, Secretary / Treasurer