

**NATCHEZ CONVENTION PROMOTION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 1:00pm**

Commissioners Present: Helen Moss Smith, Lance Harris, Robbie Cade Furdge (online) & Barbara Bruce (online)  
Staff: Lynsey Gilbert, Roscoe Barnes, Mallory Meng & Jessica Cauthen  
Guests: Peyton Cavin, Ryan Richardson & Sarah Lindsey Laukhuff (online)

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Helen Smith called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and welcomed everyone.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Helen Moss Smith motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the NCPC of December 20, 2023.

The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIALS**

Lynsey Gilbert did make note that Katie McCabe and Devin Heath's credit cards were closed at Home Bank. A new credit card was opened in Helen Moss Smith's name.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Helen Moss Smith, to approve the payment docket and financial report as presented by Silas Simmons.

The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Barbara Bruce joined the meeting at 1:24pm.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Robbie Cade Furdge, to approve the request of the staff to engage with Advance Travel & Tourism for the ARPA Digital Marketing Agency contract.

The motion passed unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Robbie Cade Furdge, to follow the recommendation of the staff to engage with Madden Media as the ARPA Advertising Agency.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jessica Cauthen presented multiple funding requests including recommendations provided by TMAC.

Robbie Cade Furdge motioned, seconded by Barbara Bruce, to approve \$2,500 for the Norman Puckett Junior Golf Tournament as recommended by TMAC. The motion passed unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned to table the request of the Natchez Open Championship, seconded by Robbie Cade Furdge, allowing Greg Brooking to complete correct Visit Natchez documents and give further details on the event. The motion passed unanimously.

Helen Moss Smith motioned that up to \$3,000 be used to print and advertise in the African American History Trail brochure, at the discretion of the staff. Robbie Cade Furdge seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned to table the request from Rev's Country Tours, allowing staff to check past minutes to see if Visit Natchez has funded similar requests. Barbara Bruce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Bruce motioned, seconded by Helen Moss Smith, to approve \$2,000 for the MDP Reach Weekend on the River event. Robbie Cade Furdge recused herself. The motion passed with 3 yays, 0 nays and 1 recusal.

Helen Moss Smith motioned, seconded by Robbie Cade Furdge, to approve \$5,000 for the Natchez Festival of Music 2024 season as recommended by TMAC. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Bruce motioned, seconded by Robbie Cade Furdge, to approve \$5,000 for the Natchez Powwow as recommended by TMAC. Lance Harris recused himself. The motion passed with 3 yays, 0 nays and 1 recusal.

Barbara Bruce motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to approve \$3,500 for the Natchez Little Theatre 2024 season as recommended by TMAC. The motion passed unanimously.

Robbie Cade Furdge motioned, seconded by Barbara Bruce, to approve \$3,000 for Live at Five Spring Series as recommended by TMAC. Lance Harris recused himself. The motion passed with 3 yays, 0 nays and 1 recusal.

Barbara Bruce motioned, seconded by Helen Moss Smith, to approve \$4,000 for the Bluff City Open disc golf tournament as recommended by TMAC. Lance Harris recused himself. The motion passed with 3 yays, 0 nays and 1 recusal.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Helen Moss Smith motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to go into closed determination.

The motion passed unanimously.

Helen Moss Smith motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel.

The motion passed unanimously and the NCPC went into Executive Session at 2:39pm.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Helen Moss Smith, to return to Regular Session at 3:06pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Helen Moss Smith, to fill the position for contract visitor services ambassador as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

Helen Moss Smith motioned to adjourn at 3:07pm. Lance Harris seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

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Helen Moss Smith, Chairperson

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Lance Harris, Secretary/ Treasurer