

## **NATCHEZ CONVENTION PROMOTION COMMISSION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 1:02 pm**

Commissioners Present: Katie McCabe, Lance Harris, Helen Smith, Dana Wilson, & Lavada Hill  
Commissioners Absent: Barbara Bruce  
Staff: Jennifer Combs, Lynsey Smith, Stratton Hall, & Katie Ernst  
Guests: Walter Tipton, Peyton Cavin, Sarah Lindsey Laukhuff, Ser Boxley, and Hy Crocker

### **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 July 30, 2019.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Helen Smith motioned, seconded by Lavada Hill, to approve the minutes from August 21, 2019.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Lavada Hill, to approve the minutes from September 18, 2019.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **FINANCIALS**

- Peyton Cavin presented the financials including the payment docket

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to approve the payment docket as presented.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER REPORT**

- Walter Tipton presented a report on recent and upcoming conferences and events.

### **VISITORS**

- Sarah Lindsey Laukhuff, Chairman of Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee, presented multiple funding requests for consideration.

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$4,000 for the 2020 Natchez Festival of Music season.**

The motion carried unanimously.

Helen Smith motioned, seconded by Lavada Hill, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$2,500 for Marsh Marketing's 2020 Euro Auto Festival.

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$2,500 for the Holly Half and 5K race to be held December 21, 2019.

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Helen Smith to table the marketing funding assistance request of the Natchez International Crepe Myrtle Festival to allow time to generate questions to be sent to the organizers for event clarification.

- Lance Harris recused himself

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$1,500 for the Mississippi Bandmasters Association's 2019 conference.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$500 as a sponsor of the Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$2,500 for Longwood Afternoon.

The motion carried with votes in favor via rollcall vote from Lance Harris, Katie McCabe, Helen Smith, and Dana Wilson. Lavada Hill abstained from voting.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Lavada Hill, to accept and approve the marketing assistance request at TMAC's recommendation of \$500 as a sponsor of the Friends of Forks of the Roads Society.

- Ser Boxley spoke for the record citing he sent an e-mail requesting the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission host, not sponsor, a reception for the 400 Years Anniversary of African Americans from 1619 to 2019. He indicated he did not submit a request for sponsorship of the event for \$500, but \$2,000 citing it would cover various expenses including a drummer, printing of program, lunch, gasoline for tours, bus rental, banner, and enlargement of photo. Jennifer

Combs asked when the request was submitted because she did not receive it with Ser Boxley indicating he didn't submit it, but requested Darrell White submit it for him.

- Discussion continued regarding the \$500 request reviewed was based on an email received by the commissioners from Ser Boxley requesting assistance with food for a reception with Ser Boxley indicating his needs changed after sending the e-mail.
- Discussion continued regarding Visit Natchez not hosting events but sponsoring events.

The motion carried with votes in favor via rollcall vote from Lance Harris, Katie McCabe, Helen Smith, and Dana Wilson. Lavada Hill abstained from voting.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to table the marketing assistance funding request of Redneck Adventures TV Group, Miss Lou Tours.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dana Wilson motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to accept and approve the marketing funding request at TMAC's recommendation of \$1,500 for Christmas in Natchez.

The motion carried unanimously.

Helen Smith motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to accept and approve the marketing funding request at TMAC's recommendation of \$3,000 for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

- Lance Harris recused himself from the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Lance Harris discussed Ser Boxley's request to protest the \$500 sponsorship approved by the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission with Ser Boxley stating it was due to staff error and he is not looking for a sponsor, but a host. Discussion occurred regarding the Natchez Convention Promotions not hosting events, but sponsoring events and marketing Natchez for overnight visitation.

#### **PRESIDENT / CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Lance Harris reported that he and Jennifer Combs attended a meeting this week regarding a funding request centered around a retention tool for real estate purchases in which they explained they didn't foresee being able to put money toward their request.

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

- Jennifer Combs presented a follow up from the Richard Peterson Cultural Heritage event and proposal for phase 1 report as the notes were lost from the event.

**Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Lance Harris, to approve \$2,000 for Richard Peterson to prepare the key findings from the meetings, discussions, destination site visits and engagements into a topline cultural tourism insight report memorializing the shared insights, ideals, and community connections to the overarching focus to developing and expanding tourism opportunities for Natchez.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to change the meeting date and time of the next regular meeting of the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission with the Executive Director polling the commissioners to determine the best date and give the information to the Secretary to post notice.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

**Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to adjourn at 2:57 pm.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Attachments: Agenda

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Lance Harris, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Katie Johnson McCabe, Secretary / Treasurer