

NATCHEZ CONVENTION PROMOTION COMMISSION

Regular Rescheduled Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:03 pm

Commissioners Present: Katie McCabe, Lance Harris, Helen Smith, Dana Wilson, Barbara Bruce, & Lavada Hill

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Staff: Jennifer Combs, Darrell White, & Stratton Hall

Guests: Walter Tipton, Peyton Cavin, Mike Marsh, Servia Fortenberry, and Sevetrius Dillon

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

- Lance called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVE MINUTES

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to table the minutes from October 16, 2019.

The motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS

- Mike Marsh with Euro Autofest presented information on the 2020 event and presented a request to increase the funding request approved by the NCPC in the amount of \$2,500 to \$5,000

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to take the Euro Auto Fest request for additional marketing funds under advisement.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Walter Tipton presented a report on recent and upcoming conferences and events.
 - Lance Harris asked Walter Tipton to clarify if the recent newspaper article on the request for proposal on the depot was from the Natchez Convention Center or the Grand Hotel as it relates to the commissions interest in the Natchez Convention Center per the legislation. Walter Tipton explained the RFP was from the Natchez Convention Center with the logic being they are competing with various other convention centers such as the new Flowood facility and the depot would include an upscale meeting environment, user friendly multipurpose space for various people such as guest on the river boats to check e-mail, and public restrooms for the trails citing a selling point for conventions is the ability to have events on the bluff.
 - Lance Harris asked Walter Tipton how the financing would work if the RFP were awarded to the Natchez Convention Center since New Orleans Hotel Consultants are fiduciaries to the City of Natchez, the funds would be going to a city property, and they receive approximately half of operating funds from the city. Walter Tipton explained the bid

included the City of Natchez would develop the space and New Orleans Hotel Consultants would pay down the debt for doing additional renovations to the depot from the operations by putting the onerous on them for any improvements made to the depot, but the initial investment would have to come from the city through a bank note.

- Lance Harris asked Walter Tipton if they would pay rent with Walter Tipton explaining they requested it be included in the management agreement for the current facilities being managed.

FINANCIALS

- Peyton Cavin presented the financials including the payment docket

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

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to go into closed determination for executive session at 1:31 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation, personnel, and lease of property at 1:32 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to return to regular session at 1:49 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lance Harris noted he received a memorandum from the United States Department of the Interior Department of National Park Service for the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Lavada Hill, to accept the memorandum as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to empower the Human Resources Committee to create a job description and begin the process for advertising and interviewing a deputy director position for the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Dana Wilson, to empower the President / Chairman, Secretary / Treasurer, and Executive Director to begin working with legal and financial council to create a transition process for the next phases of the Natchez Convention Promotion Commission including physical properties, lease or renting of properties, personnel issues, and any other contractual obligations the NCPC has.

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Helen Smith, to accept and approve \$3,000 funding request for New Year's Eve 2019 Fireworks.

The motion carried unanimously.

Katie McCabe motioned, seconded by Barbara Bruce, to accept and approve \$350 sponsorship for a table at the Natchez Opera Festival Christmas Cabaret.

The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, December 18, 2019

ADJOURN

Lance Harris motioned, seconded by Katie McCabe, to adjourn at 2:02 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Attachments: Agenda, Notice, & Memorandum

Lance Harris, Chairman

ATTEST:

Katie Johnson McCabe, Secretary / Treasurer