

LODGER'S TAX ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

REGULAR MEETING

ACTION MINUTES

THURSDAY, March 27, 2014

TIME & PLACE: The Lodger's Tax Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Board, at the commission chambers, 400 West 3rd Street of said City on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 4:08pm

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julie Durham, and Karen Rieth acted as secretary.

ATTENDANCE: Upon Calling the roll, the following members were reported present:

Julie Durham, Chairperson
Cydney Wilkes, Vice Chairperson
Janice Gray, Member

Absent:

Hans Townsend, Member (attended, but came late)

QUORUM: There being a quorum present, the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: "Chairperson Durham asked for a motion for approval of the Agenda."

"Member Janice Gray made a motion to accept the Agenda."

Seconded by Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: "Chairperson Durham asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2014."

"Member Janice Gray made a motion to approve the minutes as written."

Seconded by Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Chairperson Durham deviated from procedure. Chairperson Julie Durham decided to reserve comments from the public until Member Hans Townsend could arise, stating that even though [secretary is unclear what Chairperson Durham was referring to] is not on the agenda, it is attached to our agenda, so "I will amend that to when Hans arrives even though we just approved the agenda if that's alright with everyone on the board".

Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes suggested moving the Comments from the Public to the end.

Chairperson Durham stated, "it's not on our agenda – I'll move the comments to later".

DISCUSSION/ACTION: QUARTERLY REPORTS Chairman Julie Durham asked if the Board would like to discuss the Quarterly report that was received.

Board members reviewed a quarterly report received from Sierra County Arts Council.

Member Janice Gray pointed out that no 2nd quarter reports were received from Old Time Fiddlers, MainStreet, and Fiesta Board, as noted in the minutes from January 23, 2014, and urged Board members to remind anyone from these boards that this is required per the funding guidelines.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Chairperson Durham deviated from procedure, noting the next
AMENDED BUDGET – SIERRA item on the agenda was the Amended Budget from Sierra County
COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL Arts Council, “which we’re going to wait until Hans gets here.”

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Chairperson Julie Durham stated she was unsure if any action has
CITY BOARD APPLICATION – SAZI been taken on the application from Sazi Marri.
MARRI

Vice Chair Cydney Wilkes stated she had encouraged Sazi to apply, but was unsure where she resides.

Member Janice Gray pointed out Sazi’s address on the application.

Board members discussed Ms. Marri’s application.

“Member Janice Gray made a motion to accept the application from Sazi Marri as Board Member for the Lodger’s Tax Board, as long as it meets the criteria for Lodger’s Tax Board”

Seconded by Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Julie Durham requested that staff draft a letter of recommendation to the City Commission.

Chairperson Julie Durham deviated from procedure, requesting James Durham, who was in the audience, to filibuster to allow time for Member Hans Townsend to arrive. City Manager, Juan Fuentes arrived, and Chairperson Durham explained that James Durham was involved in a filibuster until Member Hans Townsend could arrive. The filibuster was unrelated to Lodger’s Tax.

COMMENTS FROM Vice Chair Cydney Wilkes explained that she has done some
THE BOARD: research about hospitality training, and has been in contact with Richard Holcomb, president of the Tourism Association of New Mexico, regarding a curriculum for Hospitality training that will be in Beta Test form in May.

Richard Holcomb was brought into the meeting by teleconference in order to talk about the Hospitality Training Program. Mr. Holcomb explained that an online Hospitality Training Program is

being developed that would be the equivalent of an Associates, Bachelors, Masters, or even Doctorate level degree in Hospitality Training. The program is in the final stages of developing the initial program through Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), which would be entry level employee training. That would soon be followed up with a longer program for management. The goal would be to get management on board. The entry level would have 5 modules; the management portion would be 14 modules. Credits would be transferable to NMSU. There will be video on all the things to see and do around T or C. The program will be unveiled at the Governor's conference on Tourism in Ruidoso on May 6-7. David Jackson, a professor of hospitality and Tourism at CNM will be there to answer questions. The Beta Test will go into effect around the middle – end of May. T or C and Elephant Butte will be the first sites for the Beta Test of the Program. The cost of the training will be under \$15 per person; However, Employees in the Beta Test areas will be able to participate in the program for free.

Mr. Holcomb stated the program will be good enough that Managers will be proud to advertise that their employees are "Customer Service Certified". There is the possibility of an annual or 18 month recertification plan.

The board discussed the information from Mr. Holcomb.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:
AMENDED BUDGET – SIERRA
COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

Chairperson Durham deviated from procedure by going back to Discussion/Action.

Chairperson Julie Durham explained that she is not a voting member of the Sierra County Arts Council, recused herself, moved into the audience, and coached Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes from the audience how to proceed.

James Durham of the Sierra County Arts Council approached the podium and presented the amended Budget.

"Member Janice Gray made a motion to accept the amended budget from Sierra County Arts Council."

Vice-Chair Cydney Wilkes asked if she could second. From the Audience, Chairperson Julie Durham suggested Vice-Chair Wilkes ask for a second. Member Hans Townsend expressed concern that City Manager Juan Fuentes had left, stating postage was not an allowable cost on the budget.

From the audience, Chairperson Julie Durham stated that

the guidelines had changed and postage is now an allowable expense. There was some discussion between Member Hans Townsend and Chairperson Durham from the audience.

Member Hans Townsend seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Durham returned to her chair, stated all matters had been discussed and, " I think we can adjourn the meeting. All in favor?"

Member Janice Gray stated that the Board should probably speak with City Manager Juan Fuentes had left before the board could speak with him regarding the meeting that had been set for April 4 for recipients. Chairperson Durham stated that City manager had left. Member Janice Gray commented that she would not be available on April 4.

Member Hans Townsend noted that he felt railroaded by the City by not being given sufficient notice regarding the April 4 meeting, and objected to being expected to follow whatever the City has already decided.

Chairperson Julie Durham explained that she had been to the City Clerk's Office and understood that the recipient meeting would be on the April 24 agenda, but it must have changed due to the need to allow time for review before going to the City Commission.

Member Hans Townsend mentioned that he had brought this up in January in an attempt to avoid the time crunch.

Chairperson Julie Durham asked Board Secretary Karen Rieth to address the issue.

Board Secretary Rieth explained that she also had a conflict and could not attend, but was told by the City Manager's Office that the meeting could not be moved. There was some confusion as to the deadline for applications. The Board discussed the timeframe and turned to Board Secretary Rieth for answers.

Board Secretary Rieth stated she would need to find out from the City Manager, as she did not have that information readily available.

Chairperson Durham explained that every year the process is a little different, and the lack of consistency causes frustration with everyone.

Member Janice Gray noted that the notice of the recipient workshop was posted at the City Clerk's Office on March 27, and is to be published April 2, for a meeting April 4.

The Board expressed confusion as to whether the April 4 meeting would or would not be a mandatory meeting.

Board Secretary Rieth agreed to pass along the Boards' concerns to the City Manager.

There being no further business to come before the Board,

"Member Janice Gray made a motion to adjourn. "

Seconded by Cydney Wilkes.

Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL: Passed and approved this 24th day of April, 2014, on a motion duly made by Janice Gray. And seconded by Cydney Wilkes, and carried.

ATTEST:


Julie Durham, Chairperson