

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the Lake Jackson Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee met on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the Alice Rodgers Council Chambers, Lake Jackson with the following in attendance:

Gerald Roznovsky	Milford John-Williams, Asst. to the City Manager
Wes Copeland	Sherri Russell, City Attorney
Lindsay Scovil	Sally Villarreal, City Secretary
Wanda Coker	James Bryson, Finance Director
Lora-Marie Bernard	

SWEAR IN NEW MEMBER, LINDSAY SCOVIL

Ms. Villarreal administered the Oath of Office to Lindsay Scovil.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2, 2020

On motion by Ms. Coker, seconded by Mr. Copeland with all present members voting “aye,” the minutes were approved as presented.

SELECT NEW CHAIRPERSON

The board decided to defer this to a future agenda when the board vacancies have been filled.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Bernard and Ms. Fischer recommended Nikisha Patel from Staybridge Suites to fill the vacant Hotel Representative seat. Mayor Roznovsky expressed support for Ms. Patel.

On motion by Mayor Roznovsky, seconded by Ms. Scovil with all present members voting “aye,” the board will make a recommendation to city council to appoint Ms. Patel to the HOT Committee as the hotel representative.

Ms. Bernard reported that there are two citizens at large vacancies on the board. There was discussion on board members recommending citizens and submitting them to Ms. Villarreal.

Ms. Villarreal will reach out to them to see if they are interested. If they are, these citizens will be considered at the next meeting for recommendation to council.

Ms. Scovil suggested Ande Larson from the LJ Library.

REVIEW FY 22-23 BUDGET AND YTD REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Mr. Bryson reviewed revenues and expenditures pertaining to the HOT Committee. He went over the Level 1 and Level 2 monies and how they are disbursed.

Mayor Roznovsky commented on the Level 2 funds. He stated these dollars are forecasted overages that go into the fund.

Ms. Russell asked if there are any projections for Level 2. Reports indicated there are no projected funds for FY22-23.

Mayor Roznovsky suggested for the next meeting that Mr. Bryson provide an estimate of the funds for FY23-24 to see if there may be an overage. This will also be valuable for budget feedback.

Ms. Russell noted the application process for the Level 2 funds. This is narrowed down for non-profits.

The committee discussed how Level 2 expenditures are spent and distributed. They also discussed local hotels and agreements.

Mr. Bryson noted the budget is on target for the year.

Mayor Roznovsky shared HOT Committee history with the group.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Ms. Bernard informed the committee that Lake Jackson is a film friendly city. If someone wants to film, they will contact Ms. Bernard for contacts. Remarks included a Selena documentary and the possibility of becoming a music friendly city in 2023.
- Ms. Coker stated the Museum of Natural Sciences is focusing on public programs. She announced Earth Day is April 22, 2023. Ms. Coker shared concerns regarding the building and the museum budget, the need to hire a director and professional staff to work with preserving collections. She stated more money is needed for programs.
- Mr. Copeland shared the center is using a new ticketing system to capture demographics and noted the center continues to look at ways to bring more people in. He went over data collection and how it helps with tracking.
- Ms. Scovil stated the museum is working on tracking visitors and of those visitors 45% - 50% are from outside the Brazosport area. She noted new exhibits, and that programming has increased at the museum. The Alden Ball fundraiser will be held on April 15, 2023, at the museum.
- Mayor Roznovsky thanked everyone for their hard work coming out of Covid and touched on the downtown revitalization project.
- The group talked about integrating business with art sculptures, such as birds.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next HOT Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair

Secretary