

MINUTES
TOURISM COMMISSION
July 9, 2020
4:00 p.m.-4th Floor Conference Room

CITY CLERK
2020 JUL 10 AM 10:00

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jim Lehr	(06-00)	03/13/22
	Gary Westcott Jr	(06-00)	03/13/22
	Richard DeShon	(08-01)	03/13/21
	Matt Robertson	(11-06)	03/13/23
	Mark Jacobs	(01-00)	06/29/23

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Ted Elo, Assistant City Attorney
Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director
Chuck Kempf, Parks & Recreation Director
Rebecca Shipp, Executive Administrative Assistant

Call to Order –DeShon called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

DeShon stated a quorum was present and the meeting would begin.
Three members constitute a quorum. Present were Lehr, Westcott, DeShon, Robertson and Jacobs

DeShon welcomed Mark Jacobs as newest Commission member.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2020

Minutes were accepted as written.

DeShon asked members to respond verbally if in favor ****all present responded aye verbally****

Thompson presented the commission with a handout showing current status of transient guest tax funds availability. Thompson gave the commission an update of previously discussed trail/bridge projects.

DISCUSSION OF APPLICATIONS RECIEVED

Midwest Motor Rama

Robert Davis spoke on behalf of the application. Request is for \$15,000.00 to assist in producing a 3-day indoor, Car, Truck and Motorcycle show to be held at the St. Joseph Civic Arena.

Midwest Motor Rama has been held in St. Joseph for three years. It is a premier show as only the champions from other shows around the country are invited to this show.

City Staff recommends denial because the request is for a tourism related activity but not directly related to the riverfront. The City has approved funding for downtown tourism projects utilizing Transient Guest Tax Funds collected from the downtown portion of transient sales tax revenue in the past. However, currently this account does not have funding available and no future revenue stream is anticipated over the next year to support activities.

Discussion was held among commission members regarding the request.

Robertson made a motion to deny the application request. Westcott seconded

**VOTE: Lehr-no, Jacobs-aye, Wescott-aye, Robertson –aye, DeShon-aye
Ayes – 4 Nays – 1, Abstain-0.** Motion to deny is approved.

Eagle's Way Riverfront Park, LLC

Kelly and Allison Horn spoke on behalf of the application. Request is for 1.3 million to support development of a RV Campground adjacent to the Missouri River as identified in the St. Joseph Riverfront Master Plan. Application proposes to develop 17 acres to provide RV spaces, camping, recreational amenities and extension of the urban trail. Project would be a public/private partnership with applicant to leverage \$750,000 in private funds.

City staff recommends approval as a place holder of Transient Guest Tax Funds for RC Campground projects. Formal support would be needed by City Council prior to City formally bidding out work described in the Riverfront Master Plan due to the dollar amount. Support of project concept would commit to funding project pending Council consideration. Current funding available from Transient Guest Tax has been previously committed to the River Bluff Trail Project in the amount of \$3,937,000. Current Transient Guest Tax Fund balance is \$4,355,994. If Council approves application, City will need to bond out expenses to pledge future anticipated revenue to fund approved Tourism Commission recommended projects.

Discussion was held among commission members regarding the request.

Robertson made a motion to approve the request. Westcott seconded.

**VOTE: Lehr-aye, Jacobs-aye, Wescott-aye, Robertson –aye, DeShon-aye
Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstain-0.** Motion is approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Shipp