



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

TRANSIENT GUEST TAX COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Date: April 28, 2015

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: 1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Committee Members Present: Councilmembers Elaine Schwartz (Chair), Jeff Coen (Alternate), and Richard Harmon.

City Staff Present: Jim Colson (City Manager), Mary Feighny (Legal), Bill Fiander (Planning), Nickie Lee (Finance), Angela Horn (City Council).

- 1) Chairperson Schwartz called the meeting to order.
- 2) Chairperson Schwartz entertained a motion to approve the February 20, 2015 meeting minutes. Councilmember Harmon asked that they be amended to reflect the correct spelling of Mr. Meinhardt's last name. Councilmember Harmon moved to approve minutes as amended. Councilmember Coen seconded it. Motion passed 3-0.
- 3) Chairperson Schwartz asked Bill Fiander, City of Topeka Planning Director, to give the Historic Tourism Committee's recommendations for the Heritage Tourism Funds.
 - a. There were five applications for Improvement Grants:
 - i. Topeka Cemetery
 - ii. Jayhawk Theater
 - iii. Shawnee County Historical Society: Ritchie House
 - iv. Constitution Hall
 - v. Charles Curtis House
 - b. The Historic Tourism Committee recommended funding for three:
 - i. Jayhawk Theater, \$100,000, for a historic marquee
 - ii. Constitution Hall, \$105,000, for interior electrical, HVAC, plumbing for restrooms, exterior, roof and insulation
 - iii. Charles Curtis House, \$10,600, for window restorations, exterior painting
 - c. \$215,737 was recommended for improvement grants.
 - d. Three proposals were submitted for the Planning and Marketing Grants; the first two by the Topeka Planning Department.
 - i. Downtown historic district guidelines
 - ii. College Hill historic district expansion survey

- iii. Jayhawk Theater marketing plan
- e. \$23,000 was recommended for planning and marketing grants.

Chairperson Schwartz and Bill Fiander discussed that the purpose of the grants are to fund the restoration and improvements of historic properties that may or may not currently be open to the public. Some properties need this funding for repairs/improvements so they will be able to open to the public.

Public Comments:

Murl Riedle, Chair of Topeka Landmarks Commission and a member of the Historic Tourism Committee, spoke on the applications that were reviewed and how the grant recipients were selected.

Chris Meinhardt expressed his disappointment that the committee did not use the evaluation sheets. He is hoping that the Ritchie House will be fully funded under the planning and marketing guidelines, even though it was not put under that category.

Murl Riedle responded that the concept of putting the Ritchie House sign as a planning and marketing project would be tricky because that is match funds, so that organization would have had to raise \$9,000 and by the time they could raise that amount of money, they could have paid for the project.

Chairperson Schwartz stated that it was a new sign for the Ritchie House and not the restoration of a historic sign.

Councilmember Harmon moved to approve the recommendations of the Historic Tourism Committee. Councilmember Coen seconded.
Passed 3-0.

4) Any other items before the committee

Bill Fiander mentioned that the Transient Guest Tax Committee would need to meet again before the end of May.

Meeting adjourned.