



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

TRANSIENT GUEST TAX COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Date: May 19, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Holliday Conference Room, 620 SE Madison St.

Committee Members Present: Councilmembers Elaine Schwartz (Chair), Jeff Coen (Proxy for Richard Harmon), and Tony Emerson.

City Staff Present: Jim Colson, Mary Feighny, Bill Fiander, Nickie Lee, Brandon Kauffman, Angela Horn.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Councilmember Schwartz.
- 2) Elect Chairperson
Councilmember Coen nominated Councilmember Schwartz as Chair; Councilmember Emerson agreed. Councilmember Schwartz accepted.
- 3) Approved minutes from April 25, 2016 meeting.
- 4) Review Proposed 2017 Transient Guest Tax (TGT) Fund Budget
Nickie Lee, Budget Manager, reviewed the proposed 2017 TGT fund budget (attached).
Brett Oetting, President and CEO of Visit Topeka Inc. explained that Topeka's 7% tax is right in the middle compared to other cities. Brett gave a brief history of the Transient Guest Tax.
- 5) Approve Proposed 2017 TGT Fund Budget
Councilmember Emerson requested to defer the vote to approve the proposed budget to allow more time to do research.
- 6) Discussion of "Topeka, Home of" Signs on Interstate
Bill Fiander, Planning Director, reported on wayfinding signage on the interstate. The Planning Department received a request for 'Home of' signs to honor Harry Colmery, author of the GI Bill, which would replace the current 'Home of Ron Evans, Astronaut' sign.
Councilmember Schwartz would like to consider naming a street in Highland Park after Ron Evans. Scott Gales with Architect One

presented information regarding plans for the Harry Colmery Park, located on the west side of the 900 block of Kansas Avenue (see drawing attached). Councilmember Schwartz would like to discuss this more at the next TGT Committee meeting.

7) Discussion of Tourism Information in Topeka

Brett Oetting reviewed statistics on tourism in Topeka, how bid funds have been distributed and revisions to their visitor's guide. Brett described their new Visit Topeka app that will guide visitors to area attractions and hotels.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Meeting video can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RC8EzSfPd3g&feature=youtu.be>