



Grinnell Hotel and Motel Tax Committee  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, August 23, 2016

PRESENT: Lang, Nowasell, Smith, Spriggs, White. Absent: Wright, Cirks.

Also present: Mayor Canfield, Emily Counts, Rachael Kinnick, Angela Harrington, Russ Behrens and Kay Cmelik.

1. Vice Chair Lang called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. White made the motion, second by Smith to approve the agenda. AYES: All. Motion carried.
3. White made the motion, second by Spriggs to approve the meeting minutes for July 26, 2016. AYES: All. Motion carried.
4. The committee reviewed FY 17 Monthly Budget Report. Cmelik noted that the next distribution should be deposited soon. She will send out the amount once it is received.
5. There were no bills. Transfers will be done according to budget as funds are available.
6. Emily Counts presented the monthly CVB Report. She noted they have been very busy with the new student orientation at Grinnell College. At the reception held over the weekend Emily received several compliments on the Grinnell community from the parents of students.

Emily stated that the Farmers Market continues to grow. She informed the group that Rachael Kinnick has been working to establish a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the USDA after a vendor had requested it. SNAP allows several benefits and resources which includes the ability to accept credit/debit cards. Rachael was able to get the college to sponsor the program.

Emily also gave the statistics for the Grinnell Games. She stated their numbers had dropped the last few years but they did see a 15% gain from 2015 to 2016. They had 120 volunteers with participants from 12 states and 77 different cities. Online registrations will be available this fall rather than waiting until the spring of 2017. If anyone has ideas for new events, please let Emily or Rachael know.

Award Nominations for the Iowa Tourism Conference are now available. Emily is reviewing possible award nominees or nominations for Grinnell's events, organizations or individuals.

7. Inquiries: Angela Harrington updated the group on the repurposing of the Grinnell Community Center into a Boutique Hotel and Event Center. The management and ownership will be Angela Harrington 25% and Steve Holtze 75% of the hotel. Steve Holtze

is a Grinnell College and College Board of Trustee as well as the chairman and majority owner of the Magnolia Hotel Co, a hotel development and management company with properties in historic buildings in downtown Denver, Dallas, Houston, and Omaha. There will be 45 hotel rooms, a ballroom with 350 seated capacity ballroom, 500 capacity with band and a 500 seat auditorium. Schultz and Co is scheduled to perform at the first event. They will be hiring two people shortly after the closing on the Community Center.

Everyone is very excited about the new venture. The council will hold a public hearing on September 6 for the sale of the building.

8. The meeting was declared adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
P. Kay Cmelik, Secretary for the Committee