

Tourism Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2016

Attendance: Dan Wendorf, Debbe Kinsey, Kandy Peterson, Ernie Stender, Jim Arndt, Lauree O'Day

Missing: Steve Wendland

Public: none

Meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by Dan Wendorf.

Public Comment: none at this time

Review of April's meeting minute: A motion to approve the minutes as written from the April 24, 2015 meeting was made by Lauree O'Day, seconded by Kandy Peterson, voted and carried.

Review of 2015-16 grantees: Debbe Kinsey gave an update on all of the grants that were given for the 2015-16 cycle. All grants are paid for except Love Me Tender and Ladies Lifestyle Expo. Invoices for reimbursement should be turning in shortly.

Review of 2015-16 budget: They are marketing bills that are still due for that calendar year. Plus, administration fees have not been paid along with ½ of the fees from the 2014-15 budget. With all outstanding invoices there is \$11,890.10 that is still owed.

New cycle budgeting & reporting: New calendar year will start in 2017. We will send out grant applications in July that will be due back in August and we will meet at the end of August to review grant requests. No new grants applications were accepted for 2016 summer and fall events.

New Budget: This Budget is for the remaining of 2016 year. The new budget was provided. The Chamber is in the process of getting a new website that will have its own Tourism area. We will continue with the advertising in publications.

Motion: Lauree O'Day made the motion to accept the budget of \$17,862.00 for the remaining of 2016 calendar year was made. The motion was seconded by Kandy Peterson. Motion carried.

Discussion: (1) The New Resultion was provided with the break downs of how and where the 6% room tax money is distributed. (2)The Chamber had just received the numbers from Wisconsin Tourism on the money that was spent in Lincoln County in 2015. (3) Letters went out to grantees letting them know the change in the application process. (4) The Chamber will continue getting the correct data that is requested by the City to them in July along with new number for the budget by September. (5) New event coming to Merrill this year – Tractor Pull on July 9th at the Festival Grounds. (6) Grandstand is up and will be ready for the rodeo to use. (7) The Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo Association has purchased a new arena for the Festival Grounds. (8) The City is working on bringing demo derbies, motor cross and snowmobile cross to the Festival Grounds.

Public Comment: none

Next date and time: August 19, 2016 at noon

A motion to adjourn at 12:25pm was made by Lauree O'Day, seconded by Kandy Peterson, voted and carried.