

Tourism Development Board

November 19th, 2018

Chamber of Commerce Community Room

4:30 PM

- Members in Attendance
 - Katie Kemezis, Mandy Eller, Mayor Ben Newman, John Partin, and Michael D. Griffith
- Member not in attendance Christy Ross and Matt Sands
- Guest Lacy Garrison from Southern Standard and Chad McGee

Chairman Katie Kemezis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes from the prior meeting were approved with motion by John Partin and second from Mandy Eller.

Treasurer Report- Michael Griffith reported the total cash assets of TDB at \$30,362.13. Also, Denning and Cantrell have completed the audit, so we can have a review of the audit at the next meeting.

Concerning Project Post, the potential developer has decided they have no interest at this time. Michael Griffith suggests that perhaps we should approach the City about securing the ramp as a City park since that is the most crucial piece of the property for our purposes due to the river access point.

Concerning Project Blue, the last interested developers had mentioned the concern of continuing the project after the announcement of at least one name brand hotel in development. However, due to a boutique hotel being a different product for a different market, the financial feasibility is unclear. Katie Kemezis and Mandy Eller had met with an economics professor from UTK about research possibilities. Subsequently, he submitted a quote for a feasibility study on a boutique hotel in the Blue Building for \$15,000. The board suggested getting more quotes and asking for the potential developers to help cover the cost. Michael Griffith also suggested we should use the comprehensive feasibility study that is being conducted by IDB for the name brand hotel developments. This is for the purpose of financing the project, with Mr. Griffith advises will be our largest hurdle for the project. Mandy Eller will follow up with other quotes and the potential developers for an update at the next meeting.

The Nick Moss Band has been booked at the Park Theater for November 23rd. We are concerned about attendance and the lack of marketing for the concert. Mandy Eller will offer a promotional code to the MYP group for a reduced price. Also, we have yet to be able to secure the blues supergroup, which was the driver in booking this concert. Ms. Eller will follow up with Brad to move forward with the second contract.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Michael D. Griffith and seconded by John Partin.

Submitted, _____

Mandy Eller

Interim Director, Tourism Development Board