



Tourism Development Council Meeting
Wednesday June 12th, 2024 1:01 – 1:34pm

Minutes Approved 9/11/24

In person at Residence Inn Clackamas and virtual via Zoom.

[Recording Link](#)

Members Present: David Penilton, Luke Spencer, Holly Pfortmiller, Katen Patel, Tessa Koch

Staff Present: Samara Phelps, Janice Nilson, Jim Austin, Casey Knopik, Amber Johnson, Ithaca Janzen, Danae Burke Jones, Aaron Liersemann, Lizzie Keenan, Kristen Cianci

Others Present: Roni Weiss

1:01 – 1:04pm Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions & Declaration of Conflicts - David Penilton, Chair

In jest David suggested to the board that an official motion be made to rescind Samara's resignation. Holly put forth the motion, seconded by Katen, factitiously approved by unanimous vote.

1:04 – 1:06pm Approve May 8 Minutes - Danae Burke Jones, Administrative Specialist

Typo in timestamp was noted. Luke motioned to approve the minutes as amended with timestamp correction, seconded by Holly, approved by unanimous vote.

1:06 - 1:18pm Approve 24/25 Executive Committee

Chair – Luke Spencer, Clackamas River Outfitters

Holly motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Katen, approved by unanimous vote.

Vice Chair – Holly Pfortmiller, Best Western River Shore

Luke motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Katen, approved by unanimous vote.

At Large – Catherine Connall Nyland, Best Western Agate Beach – Sandy Resident

Luke motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Katen, approved by unanimous vote.

Samara recognized David for serving two full terms on the TDC board and noted the ways David has built relationship with the county as a whole and served in so many ways. Samara shared a small token of appreciation from staff and the TDC board.

David commended Luke on his leadership and willingness to take over the Chair position on the TDC board. Luke thanked David for his service to the board and is looking forward to taking over, working with the team, and seeing what the next year brings. Samara also recognized Holly's willingness to serve, and thanked her for stepping up to the executive committee

Discussion

1:18 pm – 1:34 Executive Director Transition – Samara Phelps, Executive Director

Samara has submitted her resignation and TDC will need to be in recruitment for a new executive director to fill the position. Samara will continue in her current role through the September 11th TDC meeting and the TDC board and county leadership will work in conjunction for the transition and new hiring process. TDC and BCC Chairs will meet with the County Administrator to recruit a new director in an open and competitive process. An interim director will be named hopefully in June to work side by side with Samara to keep program going while the recruitment process is underway.



David commented that the Mt. Hood Territory staff is a special group, and the board will need to bring someone on that will support and elevate staff. Number one priority is staff & team culture as we move forward. Once decided by the County Administrator a plan and timeline will be shared.

David asked staff if there's any questions or things staff would like to share surrounding the transition? Nothing at this point.

Holly asked if there will be any internal applicants? No responses.

Luke asked a clarifying question if the TDC will have any input on the interim director? Samara responded that the County Administrator will appoint the interim director but has a very strong interest in doing it in a collaborative way with the TDC Board. An interim director will be named as the next step even if responsibilities will not be taken over right away and staff may not be involved in discussions until we get closer to a permanent appointment.

David expressed that he feels like things are in a good place and administrator Gary Schmidt is the right person for the group during this transitional time and will be a good bridge and very supportive of the department.

Luke reminded the group of how important it is that the TDC has trust in whoever is in the executive directory position.

No TDC meeting in July – the next meeting will tentatively be in August. A meeting will only occur if there's business to be attended to, otherwise the TDC will meet in September to finalize everything.

1:34 p.m. Adjourn Meeting Public Meeting