

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MUSKOGEE TOURISM AUTHORITY REGULAR SESSION August 18, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Muskogee Tourism Authority met in a Regular Session at 4:00 p.m., on August 18, 2022, at The Roxy Theater, 220 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, Oklahoma, with Chair Daniel Chepkauskas presiding.

### **Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chair)**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chair Daniel Chepkauskas and the roll was called as follows:

**Present:** Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson.

**Absent:** Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole; Trustee Traci McGee;

**Staff Present:** Dr. Jerri Stoutermire, Chief Operating Officer; Jordyn Jorgenson, Tourism Director; John Tyler Hammons, Attorney at Law; Angie O’Neal, legal assistant to John Tyler Hammons; Jennifer Sweazy, City of Muskogee.

Chairman addressed the audience by asking if anyone had any public comments.

Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole joined meeting at 4:02pm.

### **Item 1: Consider approval of the July 21, 2022 meeting minutes, or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chair)**

Motion was made by Chair Daniel Chepkauskas, seconded by Trustee Mike Gragg, to approve the minutes for July 21, 2022.

**AYE:** Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson.

**NAY:** None

**OTHER:** Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Sharon Champlin; Trustee Traci McGee (absent)

The Chair declared the motion approved.

Trustee Traci McGee joined meeting at 4:05

**Item 2: Consider approval of Muskogee Tourism Authority financials and claims for June 2022. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chair)**

Motion was made by Trustee Mike Gragg, seconded by Trustee Aanje Wilkerson, to approve the financials and claims for June 2022.

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson.

NAY: None

OTHER: Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Sharon Champlin; (absent)

The Chair declared the motion approved.

**Item 3: Consider approval of the advisory committee applicant(s) or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chair)**

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire advised the application approved at the last meeting is now being used. Overnight she has received five new applications for the Advisory Committee. It was recommended that more time is needed to review applications submitted.

The Chair declared the no action taken.

**Item 4: Consider approval of the recommendations of the advisory committee, or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkauskas, Chair)**

Jordyn Jorgenson discussed the Community Support Grants and criteria of the grant application. Discussion ensued on the approval/denied applications. Trustees voiced concerns over the approval process. The grant for the Civic Center covers numerous events in the amount of \$20,000 in which was denied. The committee would like to have events separated on the grant request and require more information on that event. The grant for the Roxy was similar in naming several events in which the committee denied asking to separated each event and require more information on the event.

Motion made by Trustee Mike Gragg to table until next meeting, seconded by Trustee Mark Patel.

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkauskas; Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson.

NAY: None

OTHER: Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Sharon Champlin; (absent)

The Chair declared the motion approved.

**Item 5: Discuss and take action to authorize the submission of a bid to serve as host of the Bass National Championship tournament for 2023, including financial commitment, as well as establish and populate a Host Committee to perform the duties as required by the bid solicitation. (Daniel Chepkaskas, Chair)**

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire discussed the preliminary information on the regional tournament and reported the Port of Muskogee is on board and unsure of the City's support in sharing costs.

Motion was made by Trustee Traci McGee and seconded by Mike Gragg to submit bid to serve as host for the event in 2023.

AYE: Chair Daniel Chepkaskas; Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Cole; Trustee Mike Gragg; Trustee Traci McGee; Trustee Mark Patel; Trustee Tim Wheeler; Trustee Aanje Wilkerson.

NAY: None

OTHER: Vice Chair Evelyn Hibbs; Trustee Sharon Champlin; (absent)

The Chair declared the motion approved.

**Item 6: Discuss and take possible action on Reports from Oxford Productions, Inc. regarding Visit Muskogee Tourism Program and Operation of the Roxy Theater, or take other necessary action. (Daniel Chepkaskas, Chair)**

Dr. Jerri Stoutermire discussed the Strategic Plan for the Roxy Theater including renovations, marketing and increase usage of the facility. She also reported that the new office space wants and additional \$250.00 per month to offset price of the new a/c unit needed to occupy the space. She will be checking into sub-leasing an office space to make up the difference in the costs. Jordyn Jorgenson discussed upcoming events planned for our city. Also, discussed the MTA yearly budget and uses of that money.

No action taken.

There being no other business before the Board of Trustees, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

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**Daniel Chepkaskas**  
**Chair**

ATTEST:

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**Tracy Cole**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**