

ATLANTIC CITY
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 15 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

PRESIDING: David Greenblatt, Chair

PRESENT: William Cheatham, Keturah Jackson, Sarah Beth Johnson, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Maher, Cortez Martin

ABSENT: Keith Mills, Ali Reynolds

CRDA STAFF: Susan Thompson, Sharon Dickerson, Laura Berrios

OPENING STATEMENT

The meeting of the Atlantic City Tourism Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:00pm.

CLEAN & SAFE AGENDA

Technology Upgrades – Willie Glass, Public Safety Director

Mr. Glass reported the IJIS report is anticipated to be finished by tomorrow afternoon. The recommendations from the report will be used to develop the Request for Qualifications for the project manager. The executive officer, Bill Mazur will run the operation for the department. He will work as a deputy chief under Chief Jubilee and continue to work part-time in the director's office.

Commissioner Comment

- Mr. Martin – Mazur the IT expert or project manager? Mr. Glass stated Mazur would be the point of contact for the project manager.
- Mr. Martin – project manager from outside police department? Mr. Glass confirmed.
- Mr. Kelly – timeline for implementation? Mr. Glass - Not at this time – the project manager will set the timeline and we hope to have made significant progress by the first of the year.

- Ms. Jackson – Advertised in house? Mr. Glass – advertised outside of police department

Code Enforcement – Anthony Cox

- Mr. Cox reported the Acting Chief in his office has been replaced due to retirement. There are 4 positions open in his office: 2 in-house and 2 tourism district. Reviewing software to upgrade the office but budget constraints are an issue. Municipal judge has reversed a decision by Mr. Cox on a property in violation.
- Mr. Maher – Given the part time nature of the new positions, would quality applicants be interested in the position? Mr. Cox stated he would be looking for applicants with the most experience and additional credentials such as UCC and Housing Inspection certifications. The in-house positions will be part-time.
- Ms. Mack inquired if it would help to support your case in court if the Civic Associations were in court so judge could see the community is behind the effort.
- Ms. Thompson asked what could be done to change the judge’s actions on these matters. Ms. Johnson stated it comes back to constitutional rights because it can be considered in part a ‘taking’ of property.
- Mr. Martin – judge based decision on what? Judge wants to hear facts only. Ms. Johnson stated it can be appealed but NJ Supreme Court is liberal.
- Mr. Lamaine – is statute constitutionally sound? Many shore towns are able to deal with these issues without getting bogged down.
- Mr. Ireland inquired about an ordinance related to vacant properties that may have been passed a few years ago.
- Mr. Cheatham expressed concern over city-owned property not being maintained. How can we expect citizens to maintain their properties when the city does not?
- Ms. Jackson – suggested tapping into trade schools for the new positions.
- Mr. Herrold – the students would not have the expertise to judge whether a system is in violation.
- Mr. Lamaine – to the city’s benefit to bring many cases to judge at once to see magnitude of problem
- Mr. Greenblatt – possibility of grassroots effort to benefit city code enforcement and CRDA efforts to clean up the city. Talk to council members or petition is another option.
- Mr. Cox stated his greatest challenge is staffing to cover the entire city on a consistent basis.
- Ms. Thompson inquired if there is a mechanism for city to clean up and charge property owner for cost? Mr. Cox stated there is and sanitation brings those items to the attention of public works to address the problem. Ms. Thompson stated this action could support the cost of employees that do the clean up.
- Mr. Cheatham expressed concern that council is not trying to clean up each of their districts.
- ❖ Ms. Jackson suggested residents could file complaints through the city website.
- Ms. Thompson suggested an end of term list of recommendations to be presented to the CRDA Board. Current public member terms expire in June. Bring attention of issues to Mayor and pass concerns and recommendations to new commissioners.
- Mr. Cox inquired if he could apply as a resident (not a city employee) to which Ms. Thompson stated he could.

- ❖ Mr. Kelly made the motion to submit an end of term report and dedicate one meeting to the writing of the report. Motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and approved by unanimous vote of the commission.
- ❖ Mr. Greenblatt requested ideas for the report be emailed to him. An email would be sent to commissioners and PACE members suggesting the same.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- ❖ Housing Sales/ Procida will be carried to May.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION AGENDA

Tall Ship Parade

- Mr. Greenblatt showed a video of a Tall Ship Parade held in Virginia.
- Mr. Lamaine stated due to economic reasons and the sequester, the military support would not be available for this type of event.
- Mr. Greenblatt stated it was a way to capitalize on our proximity to the ocean.
- ❖ Ms. Thompson reported the arrangement and issues of the last visit of the Tall Ships to the city in early 2000's. Ms. Thompson also mentioned the Sailing Regatta sponsored by ACA last year and stated staff would look into both events to see if it would be worth it to pursue.
- Ms. Colleen Price expressed concern over the public marina and its facilities. They are in a terrible state of negligence and before we invite visitors to our public marina, this needs to be addressed.
- Mr. Paul Herrold also suggested the city needs a mooring field. Low maintenance and help pay for maintenance of marina
- Mr. Lamaine stated all the issues discussed today come down to funding.
- Mr. Greenblatt stated these recommendations can also be included in our end of term report.
- Mr. Kelly suggested cleaning restrooms at the marina be done by SID.
- Ms. Thompson suggested a member of the Gardiner's Basin Foundation attend the next commission meeting to present the Master Plan of the district.
- Ms. Price stated the city needs to take ownership of the issue.
- To Ms. Thompson's inquiry Mr. Lamaine stated the fundraising is for maintenance and not for capital projects.
- ❖ Mr. Lamaine will present the Master Plan and its current financial status of Gardiner's Basin to the commission next month.
- Mr. Cheatham stated the neglect is ongoing and the city needs to take the initiative to make changes.

GENERAL COMMENT

- To Mr. Lamaine's concerns about flooding at Boardwalk Hall, Ms. Thompson reported the ACCVA has now been merged into CRDA and the Authority is assessing the issue with the parking garage.
- Mr. Kelly stated the Air Show is still happening just without the military support. It will be a 3-hour show that will still entertain the community.
 - Ms. Thompson suggested advertising our show in areas where shows have been cancelled.

Hearing no further business or public comment, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Cheatham and seconded by Ms. Jackson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the commissioners.

NOTE: Items marked with ❖ indicate a recommendation or action to be taken.