

Blue Ribbon Commission

Minutes

December 9, 2019 4:00 PM
Historic Metropolitan Courthouse
One Public Square Suite 205
Committee Room 2 Nashville, TN 37201

Members Present: VM Jim Shulman, CM Bob Mendes, CM Gloria Hausser, Chair Emily Evans, Gracie Porter, Dave Goetz, Patrick Green, Margaret Darby, and Brad Rayson. Attending on behalf of Mayor Cooper: Kristen Wilson.

Members Absent: DJ Wootson and Tracy Kane

The meeting was called to order by Chair Evans at 4:00 PM CST. The Chair notified the public of their appeal rights.

Chair Evans informed the Commission that due to work and other requirements she was stepping down as Chair. She nominated Dave Goetz as Chair, seconded by VM Shulman. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Goetz then designated Evans as Vice Chair.

Kristen Wilson expressed the administration's appreciation for the prior work of the Commission, and that the initial report is being used as source material for their review of the Metro Budget. She requested that the Commission focus its efforts on looking for benchmarks and best practices in the management of tourism related issues, managing costs and increasing beneficial results. Her suggestion is for the Commission to look at other in state tourism efforts, such as Memphis, Pigeon Forge and Chattanooga. She also suggested the Commission survey other southern tourist destinations such as Charleston, New Orleans or Miami. CM Mendes asked if there could be a compilation of the statutes that affect tourism development zones. Margaret Darby agreed to investigate that. Vice Chair Evans supported the suggestion from Wilson and agreed to lead the effort. Other members also agreed to assist.

Chair Goetz suggested the Commission change its meeting schedule to the second and fourth Mondays of each month (avoiding any conflict with regular Council meetings), time of 4:00 PM. The Commission agreed. Initial dates are 1/13/2020, 1/27/2020, 2/10/2020 and 2/24/2020, again all at 4PM. The Chair will also recirculate the report and its addenda for review by Commission members prior to the 1/13 meeting. Members are asked to bring those or other ideas forward at that time. The Chair also emphasized the importance of attendance and participation in the Commission meetings and tasks.

There being no other business, the Commission adjourned at 4:35PM.