

Latimer County Tourism Trust Authority (LCTTA) Board Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2019

The LCTTA Board met March 8, 2019 at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chairwoman Maryellen Mooney. Roll Call confirmed all Board Members were present except for Vice Chairwoman Jodie White. Others attending were Executive Director (Dir) Tamra Bell and Clerk Lori Chrestman. Guests in attendance were Chris Hawn, Manager, Robbers Cave State Park (RCSP), Ginny Skimbo, Choctaw Nation; Lori Long, Jeep Invasion, and Jeremy Harrison, Outlaw 100.

3. Adoption of Agenda:

Rep Thomson moved to adopt the Agenda with changes (Grant Applications: 1) Move 8A "What About Bob" to April Board Meeting; 2) Consider 8B Round Up Club Grant; 3) Add 8C Outlaw 100 AAR). Rep Johnson seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White Absent Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes

The motion passed.

4. Approval of February 11, 2019 Regular LCTTA Board Meeting Minutes:

Rep Thomson moved to approve the Minutes; Rep Shero seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White Absent Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes

The motion passed.

5. Financial Report:

Dir Bell discussed purchase orders. She stated she had reviewed and corrected the Purchase Order (PO) listing at Latimer County Court Clerk's office. She explained that when a PO is inactive the encumbered amount will be listed as "\$0.00", but the title will remain. When that PO is used again, the title is updated; however, the software requires something to mark the PO; therefore, the original vendor's name is retained until updated. One option is to "Void" the PO for it to be removed permanently; however, this method hinders the audit trail.

CH Mooney stated the Financial Report was accepted as presented.

6. Public Comment:

A. Lori Long stated a Jeep Invasion is scheduled for 4 April. The event will include VIP tours.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Website, Logo & Other Advertising Issues:

A. Dir Bell inquired if the Board had received the email from Crystal Cain, a prospective webmaster who lives in the Veterans Colony. Each member indicated receipt of the email.

B. Dir Bell stated Mr. Sockey had called and indicated he would like to meet with the Board to answer any questions about his service or contract.

A discussion followed concerning best strategic approach to interviewing and when. It was determined each would be scheduled for an interview on Wednesday, 13 March, beginning at 1pm with the other one at 2:30pm. Dir Bell will contact both applicants to schedule.

CH Mooney stated it would be advantageous for as many Board members to attend as is possible. Each attending Board member indicated availability.

Dir Bell suggested the Board members review various websites to have an idea what details are important and effective. She suggested the Broken Bow website is a good example.

8. Presentation by Michael Duncan: Historical Edwards Store

CH Mooney introduced Mr. Duncan, a lawyer from Oklahoma City, who formerly lived in Wilburton and his Mother was born in Wilburton.

Mr. Duncan stated he appreciated the invitation to address the LCTTA Board. He distributed a Fact Sheet on "The Edwards Store" and explained he is interested in historical preservation and nominated last year to the Oklahoma Preservation Society the Red Oak Edwards Store for its historical value as it is the only structure in Oklahoma still standing on what was the Butterfield Trail of the 1850s. He is pleased it was approved as an historical treasure. It was again on the 2019 listing.

The Trail had a stop every 11 miles for the stagecoach teams to be traded out. NOTE: The Edwards Store was different in that it was a meal stop, as well. The first Post Office in Red Oak was established in the Edwards Store after it was built in the late 1840s.

Currently there are 3 owners who are the 7th generation descendants of the original owner and builder, Mr. Edwards. They have established a nonprofit organization, Edwards Store, Inc, which includes several board members as well as one family member. Donations received are dedicated to the site refurbishing; no overhead will be taken from donations.

Rep Johnson asked who is on the Board besides Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan replied there currently are 3 and they are looking for 4 additional members. The goal is to have an Advisory Committee with the following attitudes required: a person who can conduct fund raising and who is locally vested in the restoration. He wants a Board that is a collection of people who bring different things to the table, but are committed to the renovation.

The structure was a log cabin and originally had 2 chimneys with dry stack rock on one end (meaning no chinking). Currently there is concern about the chimneys collapsing, as well as the security of the cabin and the property.

Last October, using the National Park Service standards, an engineer conducted a site inspection. He concluded it would take approximately \$300,000 to restore it in 2 phases which will take approximately 4 to 5 years due to the labor intensity of each step being a manual task.

There are options for restoration donations: 1. Social media fund raising; and 2. Local contributions of dollars, time or ideas.

The mission is threefold: 1. Restore for future generations; 2. Historical Education; and 3. Future Tourism. The Butterfield Trail route restoration is being planned which will be a plus for Latimer County.

Security is a great priority. So far it has escaped vandalism, but the risk goes up with time. One priority expense is security expense. The other concern is fire.

Rep Shero suggested the location needs both a fence and a hydrant. There is a Fire Station ½ mile away, so the hydrant is efficient. With the renewed interest, more people will be visiting the site; more people mean higher fire risk.

Mr. Duncan stated there have been talks with the Red Oak schools concerning a grounds clean up project.

Rep Shero stated the possibility of a Fort Smith 1 cent sales tax to develop the trail. He envisions a collaboration with them to make the most of this Trail renovation that runs across Oklahoma. LeFlore County is not yet working on it, but should add people in future.

He stated he also is working with local congressmen for a bill to support the project. Mr. Duncan and Rep Shero discussed mutual contacts for support.

Rep Thomson commented there is a need to ensure that maintenance and upkeep are part of the overall plan, to which Mr. Duncan replied that keeping them on the radar is vital.

Rep Johnson asked if there is any tribal involvement. Mr. Duncan stated there has been some discussion, but little interest from the family as they were turned off when the first discussion resulted in the tribe wanting to move the structure. As the structure is tied to the Butterfield Trail, that does not seem logical. However, that was with former tribal leadership, so perhaps may now have a better result from discussion. Mrs. Edwards was a Choctaw, so this can be a possible option to explore.

CH Mooney thanked Mr. Duncan for his visit and presentation that gave us both the background and a good perspective. She requested he keep us in the loop of progress.

Mr. Duncan stated this is a "very open project" and he appreciated the enthusiastic reception from the Board.

8. Review (and Possible Action) of Grant Applications:

A. Mr. Jay Austin, Round Up Club, Wilburton Round Up Club Rodeo, 14 & 15 June, \$5700 (\$4500 Animal Contractor and \$1200 Advertising). Mr. Austin stated the contractor is same vendor used for the last 4 or 5 years. Radio advertising is with Ft. Smith radio station. Posters should cost approximately \$100, using Stigler Printing. Rep Shero asked if the Board had supported the Wilburton rodeo before to which CH Mooney stated it had supported their advertising several years ago.

Rep Johnson asked if they had made a profit in the past years. Mr. Austin stated they had. He stated this year they will have "royalty contest". So far have 2 girl candidates for the "Princess and Runner Up". If any boys show an interest, they will also be included.

A discussion followed concerning the budget and those items that cannot be legally supported by LCTTA and the Prize Money optimum amounts.

Rep Shero moved to approve \$2250 (half requested) and \$1200 for advertising (radio and posters) for a total of \$3450. Rep Thomson seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White Absent Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes

The motion passed.

CH Mooney reminded Mr. Austin to return to the July Board Meeting with an AAR.

B. Mr. Jeremy Harrison, presented the After Action Report (AAR) for the Outlaw 100 Marathon Runs on 16 & 17 February, Robbers Cave State Park.

Mr. Harrison stated, "I'm thrilled! It was a wild success!" He stated there were 256 entrants who experienced good running weather (little bit dampened trails and good temperatures). He appreciated the positive Face Book comments from Mayor Brinlee. Entrants represented 17 states and 35 have signed up for next year's run. The runners loved the RCSP venue because of its diverse terrain. The level of difficulty of any race is a "huge factor" in its success and RCSP's is excellent.

- Working on getting the bike run here (Lt Governor participates)
- Working on races in MS, IA, & LA
- Working on a Night 10 to 50 Km Races for 13 July
- Want to work on promotional video to promote RCSP & Running Trails. Have reached out to OK City videographer who has given quote of \$4500 per event. (Have a demo video to show after meeting if members interested).
- Looking for local sponsors.

CH Mooney expressed hers and Boards pleasure with success of event and excitement of the returning next year.

Presentation Only: No Action Required

9. Old Business

A. Discuss and Take Action to Approve By-Laws to Include Two (2) Additional Board Members: 1. Manager, Robbers Cave State Park; and 2. Choctaw Nation Representative.

CH Mooney distributed current By-Laws and led discussion on Article III, Section 3.2.

The Assistant District Attorney has been consulted. The local Choctaw Council Rep Jennifer Woods has expressed approval of having a representative on the Board. Have previously discussed with Manager Hawn, RCSP, who is in favor of the membership.

Rep Shero moved to approve change to By-Laws to increase LCTTA voting Board Members from 5 to 7, including addition of Manager of Robbers Cave State Park and a representative from the Choctaw Nation. Rep Thomson seconded the motion.

Upon CH Mooney's call for any further discussion, the question was asked when the change would become effective.

Rep Shero amended his motion to add the phrase, "to take effect immediately", so the motion now reads: *Rep Shero moved to approve change to By-Laws to increase LCTTA voting Board Members from 5 to 7, including addition of Manager of Robbers Cave State Park and a representative from the Choctaw Nation, to take effect immediately.* Rep Thomson seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White Absent Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes

The motion passed.

The Clerk will update the By-Laws and provide a copy via email to each Board Member.

10. New Business:

A. Discuss and Take Action to Approve Amount to be Determined to Hire Attorney to Prepare Lease Agreement with EOSC.

CH Mooney stated she has talked with local attorney Nils Rauniker reference the proposed lease agreement with EOSC for the Rock Building and surrounding acreage located on Hwy 2 North as well as the bike trail from the Rock Building to RCSP. Mr. Rauniker's opinion was that EOSC would prefer to originate the lease document using their attorneys; however, if LCTTA needs an attorney, he is willing to assist for less than \$500.

Rep Shero described the issue, the time sensitivity, and future possible issues.

CH Mooney asked when the next Board of Regents next meeting is scheduled to which Rep Shero replied, "10am, Friday, 21 March". He further volunteered to discuss with Dr. Smith the need to be on the Agenda for that meeting.

Rep Thomson moved to approve up to \$500 to pay Attorney Nils Rauniker to draw up the Lease Agreement with EOSC, if necessary. Rep Johnson seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White *Absent* Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes
The motion passed.

11. Adjourn .

Rep Thomson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47am; Rep Johnson seconded the motion.

The vote taken:

CH Mooney Yes VC White *Absent* Mr. Johnson Yes Mr. Thomson Yes Mr. Shero Yes
The motion passed

Next meeting is April 12, 2019, 9:30am, at Chamber of Commerce.

Maryellen Mooney, Chairman

Jodie White, Vice Chairman

Earl Shero, District 1

Wade Thomson, District 2

Nathan Johnson, District 3