



Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 22, 2018
Host: Peoria Civic Center

Present: Dan Kouri-Lariat Steakhouse, Phil Capli-Two25, Don Welch-PACVB, Josh Burnett-Jim Maloof Realtor, Ellen Mickels-Stoney Creek Inn, Jo Stowell-Four Points, Rick Swan-East Peoria Chamber of Commerce, Jess McMullin & Rik Edgar-Peoria Civic Center, Lisa Kappes-Peoria Marriott, Carl Bunker & Katie Hart-R&B Productions, Inc.

Presidents Report: Dan Kouri welcomed everyone to the meeting; Dan thanked Rik and Jess with Peoria Civic Center for hosting the meeting.

Approval of April 11, 2018 Minutes: Dan Kouri presented the June 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Rick Swan motioned for approval of the minutes. Josh Burnett seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Josh Burnett reported the treasurer's report for the months of June and July 2018. Josh reported the register showed standard in and out of funds mainly for Membership, Stormwater, R&B Fees and the upcoming Golf Outing. Josh reviewed the checking account register noting there was a balance of \$8,363.95 in the account. Josh also reported there was currently \$6,996.41 in the CD for a total of \$15,886.67. Don Welch motioned for approval of the Treasurer's report and Lisa Kappes seconded the motion and the report was unanimously approved.

Standing Reports:

Peoria Civic Center- Jess McMullin provided an updated Events listing for the Peoria Civic Center. Jess stated new shows have been added and they have a very good start to upcoming years for events/shows. Jess pointed out that there is a going to be a Press Conference on September 12th for the Upper Great Lakes Regional Figure Skating Championship that is being held October 3rd-7th at the Peoria Civic Center. It's a great opportunity for Peoria and they are looking forward to it. Jess also noted that United Way will be hosting the Food Drive at the Peoria Civic Center Parking lot on Friday, September 7th from 9am-2pm and asked everyone to participate if possible in the event. Rik stated he was getting acclimated to the new building and is settling in and working hard to fill the arena and exhibit space with his staff.

PACVB: Don Welch reported on what he has been working on regarding Equipo Vision that is being held at the Peoria Civic Center, October 25th-28th. Don stated this is a huge client for the Peoria market stating they bring 7000 people to the area and 3000-4000 room nights on Friday and Saturday nights. Don stated that unfortunately we stand to lose the Equipo Vision contract in 2019 because of the lack of participation for guaranteed room nights from area hotels. Don reported that Equipo Vision is giving Peoria a second chance to get the guaranteed rooms for Friday and Saturday nights and if able to guarantee, they would return. Don said this is a 3.2 million dollar impact to the Peoria market. He stated this was something that the area needed to work on to retain the business. Don stated he is currently sending letters to area hotels asking what they can dedicate for room nights to retain this piece of business. Don stated how important it was for everyone in the hospitality industry to work together to retain the large groups and have them return yearly to the Peoria area. Finally Don stated he was planning a conference call with the four area mayors to establish a "standing force" for large groups.

IHLA: Dan Kouri reported that Scott Dahl had returned to IHLA but has since accepted a position with the City of Springfield CVB. Carl stated once a replacement is in position he would reach out to IHLA and have the new person get involved with HOIHA. No report given.

IRA: Mike Murphy was unable to attend the meeting, no report given.

HOIHA Membership: Carl Bunker reported 2018 Membership billed out for over \$12,000.00 and has in receivables the amount of \$2,300. Carl stated Katie send out past due notices and he would be following up regarding the status of membership, Carl will have finalized by the October meeting.

Committee Reports:

Golf Scramble: Carl Bunker reported the 22nd Annual Golf Scramble is scheduled for August 29th, 12:00pm at WeaverRidge Golf Club. Carl reported that we currently have 113 golfers registered, 54 Hole Sponsors a Main Sponsor and Junior Sponsor. Carl stated if anyone wanted to golf or sponsor there is still time to support the annual event.

Peoria Chiefs Night: Carl reported we had 64 members participate in the annual HOIHA Chiefs Night with the Peoria Chiefs. He stated it was a good turnout, perfect weather and a great game. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the tickets next year also.

Taste of Peoria: Carl stated that HOIHA again joined PACE in judging and trophy participation for the Taste of Peoria. Carl said it was a hot night and very well attended. Awards were given to very deserving local businesses and included the listing for everyone to see.

Peoria Rivermen Night: Carl stated that HOIHA would again be hosting a Peoria Rivermen Night on the Season Home Opener, November 2nd at 715pm. Carl said that the invite would soon be going out to HOIHA members with the details.

Old Business:

Dan Kouri reported on the status of the Stormwater Utility Fee AdHoc committee that has been diligently working on getting the credits/manual adjusted. Dana stated that they were not able to stop the fee but trying to amend the credits available and process for applying for the credits. Dan stated that at the last city council meeting it was brought up that the city was going to be using the money to purchase property along the Illinois River instead of addressing the issues for the FDA. Dan stated that he and Jim Scherer were planning a meeting with Darrin LaHood, Ryan Spain, and Mayor Ardis.

Dan reminded everyone that the next meeting is Wednesday October 10th – 3:00 p.m. at Stoney Cree Hotel and that the Annual HOIHA Holiday Reception was scheduled for Wednesday, November 14th -3:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites.

With no further discussion, Phil Caplis motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Rick Swan seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Hart

HOIHA Association Management