

Cultural Affairs and Tourism (CAT) Advisory Committee

2/22/2018

Attendance: Elizabeth Hovell (Chair), Dean Bright, Sarah Cumuze, Marc Galvin, Tommy Malcom

Absent: Brandon VanWyk and Angel Jackson

Staff: Alex Perschka and Raquel Cobb

Location: Oconee County Tourism Office

1. **Establish Quorum**/Record Attendance: 6:05pm
2. **Agenda** was reviewed and unanimously approved.
Motion/Second: Dean Bright/Sarah Cumuze
3. **January draft meeting** were discussed and unanimously approved as amended. Special thanks was given to Sarah Cumuze for having shared the web listings of identified tourism treasure trove. Motion/Second: Dean Bright/Marc Galvin
4. **General comments from the public:**
Michael Prochaska spoke about the about the Tourism Resource Team report and their comments regarding Bogart
5. **Tourism Director' Report:** Alex Perschka
Reviewed attached report.
6. **Comprehensive Plan:** Tommy Malcom
Draft Comprehensive Plan is on the county website; encourage everyone to review it.
Next meeting will be in March and is open to the public.
7. **Tourism Product Development Resource Team Report:** Alex Perschka
Each committee member had or was given a copy of the final report which was then reviewed by Alex. Group discussed the report in general and noted that many of the same gems we are identified were those included in the report. There was some information that seemed that it may have come from another community's report.

This was an excellent effort by the Tourism staff. Discussed the timing of this occurring in such close timing with the Comprehensive Plan review and recommendations. Parts of the reports were in direct conflict with each other; committee acknowledged that it was good for them to have both to review.

To ensure that all County Commissioners receive a copy, Alex, with the unanimous support of the Advisory group, will deliver them to all County Commissioners.

8. **Who We Are** -- to our Citizenry and the World.

Each committee member was asked to bring two to three new ventures they would want to highlight in Oconee. Below are the additions to our existing list:

- Ground Up Glasswork
- Georgia Bushcraft
- Oconee County Library-including kids programs
- Jennings Mill Country Club
- North Georgia Jr. Gold League
- Gymnastic Facilities
- Hardigree Wildlife Sanctuary
- Oconee County School of Performance
- Bogart History Museum

9. Reviewed of next three **meeting date**, times and locations. Discussed rotating meetings throughout the County to educate the committee members on facilities and also invite citizens to become involved as we work on how we can help promote the tourism treasures of Oconee. Alex will research the feasibility of that occurring.

March 8th, 2018-6:15pm-7:30pm

Tourism Office, Watkinsville GA

May 10th, 2018-6:15pm-7:30pm

July 12th, 2018-6:15pm-7:30pm

Submitted by: Sarah Cumuze

Attachments: Agenda
Tourism Report
Approved/Amended January Meeting Minutes