

Tourism Commission Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2022
8:30 a.m.

Attendees: Alderman Ken Gehl, Commissioner Melissa Rasmussen, Commissioner Jim Ruetz

Also in Attendance: Laura Nelson, Tourism & Business Relations Manager, City of Oak Creek; Andrew Vickers, City Administrator, City of Oak Creek; Doug Seymour, Director of Community Development, City of Oak Creek; Leslie Flynn, Communications Coordinator, City of Oak Creek; Catherine Roeske, Clerk, City of Oak Creek; Paula Nevarez, Leisure Services Assistant, City of Oak Creek; Kevin Archambeau, DPW Foreman, City of Oak Creek

1. **Welcome/Call to order** – Commissioner Jim Ruetz called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.
2. **Approval of minutes August 8, 2022, meeting** – Alderman Ken Gehl made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Melissa Rasmussen seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. **New Business**
 - a) **Budget Update and Narrative:** The Commissioners heard Laura Nelson read the revisions to the Budget Narrative for the year of 2023. Andrew Vickers presented the proposed budget for 2023. He also discussed many of the considerations facing the Commission in the coming months, including revisiting the job description for Tourism and Business Relations Manager and reconsidering how those responsibilities could be handled and by whom. The Commissioners decided to revisit the discussion at the October meeting and mid-October SAP Workshop.
4. **Informational and discussion items**
 - a) **Future Events Update 2022/2023:** Paula informed everyone the Pop-Up Beer Gardens will not be held in DTS in 2023. The plan is to move them back to Abendschein once a permanent structure is in place. The permanent Beer Garden project has been tabled due to budget constraints. Paula explained that future events will be more family oriented. As such, the Warming House event will be replaced by a Winter Carnival. Plans for a Summer Kick-Off event are in the works. Paula informed the Commissioners Fall Fest will include pony rides, a petting zoo, an inflatable corn maze, hayrides, scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin decorating, a photo booth, DJ, trick-or-treating and a costume parade. Andrew expressed interest in discussing the Winter event at the next meeting. Paula said she would like the Commissioners to lock down the dates for next year's events at the October meeting or the SAP Workshop.

b) **MPD District 6 Initiative:** Doug Seymour presented details of a District 6 shared prosecutor program which members of the Gateway to Milwaukee Board have been discussing. The program is aimed at deterring further crime by prosecuting those who commit small crimes in the area near District 6 (South side of Milwaukee near the 13th and College hotel cluster). The Commission is in favor, agreeing that it will send a positive message from the Tourism Commission to the hotels in the area. Doug will discuss the proposed agreement with Police Chief Stecker and the other board members. He will present a formal proposal at the October meeting.

Adjournment: Alderman Ken Gehl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Melissa Rasmussen seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

ATTEST:



Paula Nevarez, Leisure Services Assistant

11/14/2022

Date