

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Special Executive Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage

DATE/TIME: July 11, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerald Bennett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RJ Winkelhake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Jobgen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Zillig
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Behlke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Rutz	

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None

Others: Hal Gilpin, Dan Reimer and Katherine Walker

1. Citizens' Comments: Jess Farlow, tourism related small business owner expressed his concerns regarding the new DMO. He asked the committee to review and scrutinize the contract and by-laws very carefully. Tammy Trebian, tourism related shop owner and vice-president of the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of Elizabeth in the hope that this all moves forward. They are totally satisfied with how this is progressing and would like to see everything going in the right direction. Hal Gilpin, owner of Hawk Valley Retreat, expressed his concern about the County entering into a contractual agreement with an organization that may operate under an assumed business name that does not legally exist yet. Brad Petersburg thanked the committee for taking the time to hold this special meeting. The existing Greater Galena Marketing, Inc. board technically needs to resign. There is also the contract with the City of Galena. These items should be addressed as conditions precedent to closing. Robert Mahan, Aldrich Guest House, discussed that he wants to be crystal clear and voiced the community support for the new DMO. Terry McGovern, small business owner, member of Stockton Strong, CVB Board member and new DMO Board member encouraged the committee to move forward with one singular voice.
2. New Business
 - a) Discussion and possible action on DMO contract and review of DMO by-laws – Merri Berlage, Executive Committee Chair, handed out to the committee the DMO contract and by-laws that we received about an hour before the committee meeting. She took the initiative to go through the contract and met with the States Attorney. The packet that she handed the committee was her poll on concerns for the County. In her talks with the States Attorney the past several days, this contract is contingent on a DMO being formed. The condition precedent to the enforceability of this contract is that a DMO is legally formed and constituted. If the DMO is not legally formed and constituted the contract is null and unenforceable. **RJ Winkelhake made a motion to cease all discussion and action on the DMO concept. Seconded by Gerald Bennett and motion passed by unanimous voice vote.** Winkelhake explained that he was very much in favor of one organization representing tourism for the entire county. He still thinks that is a very good idea, he has just lost all faith and confidence in the DMO to do that. Winkelhake was a member of the six member joint committee that was appointed for this unified DMO and he feels that they stepped out of the process too soon. This left four members that were appointed to that board to continue forward. They set up an unrealistic election process. Winkelhake has an ethical issue

with this. In addition there is no business plan set up. He believes that the people best to handle the entire situation for the County is the CVB Board. Ron Smith also expressed his displeasure with the nominating process. Steve Rutz commented that several business owners had no knowledge of the application to run and would have liked to have been on the ballot. There was no information directing them how to be included on the ballot. They were upset that they were not even able to be considered to be on the ballot because no one contacted them and there as no knowledge about it. Gerald Bennett commented that he agreed with RJ Winkelhake and added that we need to be considerate of our County employees. **RJ Winkelhake amended the motion to reject the DMO contract and cease further action on the DMO concept. Seconded by Randy Jobgen and motion passed.**

3. Citizens Comments – Robert Mahan thanked the committee for their very thoughtful discussion and expressed his disappointment that no one came to him with the questions regarding the DMO. Tammy Trebian also expressed her disappointment in the committee’s decision regarding the DMO.
4. Board Member Concerns – Ron Smith thanked Merri Berlage for her work with the States Attorney reviewing the DMO contrat and by-laws. Randy Jobgen concurred.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. following a motion made by Gerald Bennett. Seconded by Steve Rutz and motion passed.