



Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Minutes for Special Meeting
Jo Daviess County Courthouse Boardroom at 5:30 p.m.
January 6, 2015

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hal Gilpin at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call Present:

CVB Board Members

- Matthew Carroll
- Jess Farlow
- Erin Murphy
- Caitlin Oponski
- Sharon Cholewinski
- Helen Schamberger
- Hal Gilpin

Staff & County Board Members

- Merri Berlage, JDC Board Member
- Celestino Ruffini, Marketing Director
- Melosa Belger, Events Coordinator
- Betsy Kaage, Social Media Specialist
- Lori Kinnaman, Administrative Assistant
- Katherine Walker, Executive Director

Guests in attendance: Dan Reimer, Terry McGovern and Carter Newton

Welcome and Introductions: Hal Gilpin welcomed all those in attendance.

Public Comments: Terry McGovern asked for a Visitor Center to be placed at the gateway of Jo Daviess County. She also welcomed the discussion of the merger of the two tourism groups and emphasized that the smaller communities should also be represented.

New business: Katherine Walker stated that the registered participants for the triathlon was at 299 as of today. There was some discussion about the economic impact if the race was canceled and the possible revenue loss if it were to continue with less than 500 participants.

At 5:38 Sharon Cholewinski entered the meeting. Hal Gilpin announced that they now had a quorum.

At 5:45 Merri Berlage entered the meeting.

Some discussion followed concerning the cost of refunding the fees to the participants and how that would need to be done. Sharon Cholewinski suggested that more emphasis be put toward improving sponsorship.

At 6:07 Matthew Carroll and Caitlin Oponski entered the meeting.

Motion: Moved by Erin Murphy, To continue with the 2015 triathlon with this to be the final triathlon for the Galena/Jo Daviess County CVB. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion: Moved by Jess Farlow, To continue with the 2015 triathlon. *Seconded:* by Hal Gilpin. Motion carried by voice vote with one nay vote recorded for Helen Schamberger.

Matthew Carroll asked for a discussion on talks with Visit Galena. Helen Schamberger stated that she still has concerns with how the board members will be chosen and the make-up of the board. Hal Gilpin suggested that the 501(c) 6 be established and then work out the details. Catlain Oponski suggested that the board consider hiring a mediator to work with both groups.

Motion: Moved by Erin Murphy, The County Board invites the City of Galena to join forces again to promote tourism in Galena and Jo Daviess County. *Seconded:* by Jess Farlow. Motion carried by voice vote with two nay votes recorded for Hal Gilpin and Jess Farlow.

Public Comments: Helen Schamberger asked the members of the CVB Board to call other members when they will not be able to make it to a meeting.

Adjournment: *Motion:* Moved by Hal Gilpin. *Seconded:* by Jess Farlow to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Lori Kinnaman

Administrative Assistant/Secretary

Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau

January 27, 2015

Date of Approval