

**VIRGINIA CITY CONVENTION & TOURISM AUTHORITY MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 20, 8:30 am**

**V & T Depot  
Virginia City, NV 89940**

**Call to Order:** John Flanagan called the VCCTA meeting to order at 8:30 am

**Roll Call:**

**Chairman:** Angelo Petrini (excused absence)

**Board Members:** Carol Fain  
Leisa Findley  
John Flanagan  
Joe Curtis

**Staff:** Susan Sutton (excused absence)  
Patrick Gilmore  
Dawn Neamo

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 20, 2009:** Fain moved to approve the August 20, 2009 agenda. Curtis seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Karen Woodmansee, representing the Virginia City Chamber of Commerce, reported the Virginia City Chamber is considering merging with the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. Woodmansee continued she will coordinate the Outhouse races this year scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.

Shara Bouvier, Camel Race coordinator, requested the board schedule a public meeting to discuss funding for the camel races. The board discussed holding the meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2009 so posting the meeting can take place on Monday, August 24, 2009.

**TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM F STREET STATION/VIRGINIA CITY/  
FOR V & T RAILROAD EXCURSIONS:** Austin Osborne, Storey County Planner, reported he, Pat Whitten, Storey County Manager and John Flanagan were at the F Street depot on Saturday, August 15 to observe the V & T's first arrival from Carson City with 140 passengers. Osborne and the board discussed the following:

- Most passengers disembarking had an expectation there would be transportation to Virginia City's C Street (Buck Stops Here golf carts were available but could not handle the volume)
- Many passengers were elderly and used walkers or canes
- No shade or staging area for passengers to rest or get information
- Street Vibrations weekend could impact trolley picking up and dropping of passengers

Osborne continued with the help of Storey County Manager, Pat Whitten reported a bus for Sunday's was rented for \$390.00 to handle transportation. Whitten and Osborne reported this resulted in a much smoother transition with no complaints.

Osborne and the board recommended the following:

- After researching several options, Osborne recommended Carl Kuttel, owner of the Virginia City Tours, would be best suited to handle the passengers and would offer the visitor a better experience
- Cost would be \$150.00 per V & T round trip or scheduled 11:15 arrival Virginia City Tours is charter licensed so has the legal ability to pick up and drop off passengers
- Storey County has no money in their budget to fund project
- VCCTA has received approximately \$117,000.00 from business licenses to promote tourism
- Signage to address safety as passengers disembark on F Street
- More portable restrooms need to be available

Whitten congratulated Tom Gray, owner of the V & T Railroad, on the incredible job and great visitor experience. Whitten continued future plans could include directional signage, bench seating for passengers, safety issues and venue advertising.

Jim Miller, Storey County Sheriff, offered vehicles to assist in stopping traffic for the trolley to increase safety. Miller continued he would offer old fire trucks and or the paddy wagons for transportation to enhance the visitor's experience.

Curtis and Neamo reported the budget may not need to be augmented if funds could be transferred from the general fund. Neamo continued an augment would be necessary only if expenditures were higher than budgeted for.

Curtis moved to approve VCCTA expenditure of \$10,000.00 (through current 2009//2010) to fund projects related to the V & T excursions from Carson City to Virginia City which include; transporting riders to and from F Street Station to C Street, signage, staging & seating area, porta-potties and other associated expenses. Fain seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Curtis and Neamo discussed the possibility of using the VCCTA owned bleachers at the F Street Station.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:30 am