

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

Thursday, November 6, 2008, 8:30 am

**Visitor Center
86 South C Street,
Virginia City, NV**

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

Roll Call:

Chairman: Angelo Petrini (absent)

Board Members:

Carol Fain

Joe Curtis

John Flanagan

Staff:

Susan Sutton/Executive Director (excused absence)

Cory Wood/Executive Assistant

Dawn Neamo/VCCTA Bookkeeper

Patrick Gilmore/Convention Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Curtis moved to approve the November 6, 2008 agenda. Fain seconded and motion passed unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2, 2008: Flanagan corrected the October 2, 2008 minutes to read St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Fain moved to approve the October 2, 2008 minutes as amended. Curtis seconded, motion passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen Woodmansee, Chamber of Commerce representative, announced a fly-over for the November 11, Veteran's Day Parade of Heroes. Woodmansee thanked Joe Curtis for helping secure the deal. Woodmansee continued Carson Middle School band will be participating in the parade with 80 members.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Neamo reported over \$72,000.00 in Silver Line Express ticket sales. Neamo continue that sales tax and room tax are down. Neamo explained payroll, benefits and capital outlay are fixed expenses. Other expenses that are showing high percentages can be adjusted from the general fund. The board requested a comparison from 2007 budget. Fain moved to approve current financials. Joe, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

SESQUICENTENNIAL UPDATE: Curtis announced he has been in contact with a film company doing a documentary on the Hearst family. Curtis reported potential plans call for an event at Piper's Opera House and possible participation in the Sesquicentennial parade by Michael Landon's son and George Hearst's great granddaughter. Curtis continued merchandise with Sesquicentennial logo is still being considered. Curtis reported he has been in contact with the Nevada Mining Association. Gilmore reported receiving contact list from Don Ayer and is in the process of contacting participants. The board discussed paying Don Ayer's final payment. Fain moved to pay Don Ayer \$1,000.00 to complete his contract as project manager for the Sesquicentennial event. Curtis seconded, motion passed unanimously.

B STREET PROPERTY LAND PURCHASE: Fain moved the VCCTA does not move forward to purchase the B Street Property. Curtis seconded, motion passed unanimously.

EVENT COORDINATOR POSITION UPDATE: The board discussed putting a hold on hiring for the event coordinator due to the economy. Further discussion by the board included putting a freeze on all hiring and removing website job application. The board recommended letters be written to all job applicants explaining the event coordinator position is on hold. Curtis moved to place a hold on hiring an event coordinator to be re-visited at a later date. Fain seconded, motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY: The board discussed the current board vacancy will represent the hotel/motel industry but can consider a representative from the Bed & Breakfast community as well. Jeff Wood, Chollar Mansion owner and Leisa Findley, Edith Palmer's Bed & Breakfast owner have shown interest and may submit their names to Storey County Commissioners.

NEVADA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

VCCTA BOARD ATTENDANCE: Gilmore again invited board members to attend the Governor's Conference on Tourism December 8 and 9 at the Peppermill hotel & Casino. Curtis reported he can only attend one day due to a scheduling conflict.

CONVENTION SERVICES REPORT: Gilmore reported the AAA familiarization tour on October 10 and 13 for 200 agents was a success. Gilmore continued Mary Reno from the Silver Legacy is arranging a group for 2009 which will include overnights in Virginia City. Gilmore reported hosting Journey Tours owner for a site visit with plans to book groups exclusively for overnight stays in Virginia City.

CORRESPONDENCE: Wood presented the board with the following correspondence:

- Letter from Hugh Roy Marshall, Ramada owner, informing VCCTA Shara Bouvier was no longer employed with the Ramada Hotel
- Sutton's letter informing the Storey County Commissioners of the VCCTA board vacancy
- Letter from AAA travel agent
- Complaint letters regarding the Sawdust Corner Restaurant and the Virginia City Trolley

Public Comment: David Lim, Ramada Hotel manager, reported Hugh Roy Marshall, owner of the Ramada, will submit a letter of request to the Commissioners to serve on the VCCTA's board of directors. The board discussed VCCTA's By-laws stating the board of commissioners appoints VCCTA board members from the motel/hotel and business communities. Gilmore will get a copy of the By-laws to Lim. The board discussed the By-laws should read "lodging industry" when re-written..

Nearmo requested the board review revenues before augmentation due to the downturn in the economy before the budget is augmented.

Angela Mann, Comstock Chronicle editor, reported that the Ramada is booked this weekend with the Fiskars Scrapbooking convention. Gilmore reported this group contacted the VCCTA and were excited to be able to stay in a modern hotel in Virginia City.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 am