

Term Extension & Visitor Improvement Fund Grant Program Minutes

Committee Member Term Extension:

Aaron Stitt told the Committee that terms for Roland Morgan and Becky Perrett are set to expire at the end of May. In light of the current situation with COVID-19, discussions have been made with both, and they have agreed to stay on until December 31, 2020. At that date, the VPC will revisit any further extension. At the direction of the County Attorney, Stitt asked Morgan and Perrett to abstain from voting. Stitt asked for a motion. Amy Dickerson made a motion to extend the terms of both Morgan and Perrett through December 31, 2020. Susan Madsen seconded the motion. Kerry Eagan spoke up and said there is a need to also waive the bylaws in asking for the extension. Stitt asked if this needed to be included in a motion and Eagan said yes. Tara Knuth made a motion to waive the bylaws regarding term limits in order to extend the Visitor Promotions Committee terms for Roland Morgan and Becky Perrett, during these special circumstances, through December 31, 2020. Jeff Cunningham seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the extension of terms. Cunningham, Dickerson, Knuth, Madsen and Stitt voted yes. Morgan and Perrett abstained. Motion carried. Next, a vote was taken to waive the bylaws. Cunningham, Dickerson, Knuth, Madsen and Stitt voted yes. Morgan and Perrett abstained. Motion carried. Additionally, Jeff Cunningham is completing a four-year term and Stitt asked for a motion to renew his service for another four years. Perrett made a motion to renew Jeff Cunningham for a second four-year term on the Visitor Promotions Committee through May 31, 2024. Susan Madsen seconded the motion. Stitt asked for a vote. Dickerson, Knuth, Madsen, Morgan, Perrett and Stitt voted yes. Cunningham abstained. Motion carried.

Jeff Maul took a moment to say we sincerely appreciate their willingness to serve until the end of the year. With these uncertain times, it is very important to have the consistency and continuity on the committee.

Visitor Improvement Fund Grant Program

Perrett next talked about the Visitor Improvement Fund Grant Program saying the future is unclear for businesses right now and we don't know what to expect going forward. There is not the anticipation of many requests for improvement funding and since the budget has grown tight with a decrease in lodging taxes coming in, we would like to propose a suspension of the Improvement Fund Grant program. Perrett asked for discussion or questions. Nicole Fleck-Tooze said she had wondered if this would happen and had been considering making a grant request on May 1. She wondered if the committee knew of any others that may be thinking of making requests. Maul said he had heard from Lincoln Sports Foundation who was considering making another grant request. He let them know we would likely be discontinuing the fund for the unknown future. When asked if the schedule will be changed, Maul said it could be years, not sure when it would be because we need to pay out those that we owe with the little funds we currently have. Maul also noted that this is a decision being made statewide by other counties. Perrett asked Maul if he has a list of attractions to notify and Maul said yes, we will send out communications to them all and add language to the CVB website to reflect the decision. Perrett asked for a motion. Madsen made a motion to approve suspending the Improvement Fund Grant program until December 31, 2020. Stitt seconded the motion. There being no further discussion Perrett called for a vote. Cunningham, Dickerson, Knuth, Madsen, Morgan, Perrett and Stitt voted yes. Motion carried.