

**HARRISON COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION
MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2008**

The Harrison County Tourism Commission met Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., at its office located at 11975 Seaway Road, Gulfport, MS.

Commissioners Present: Beverly Martin, president; Kenneth Montana, vice president; Rip Daniels, secretary; Judge Danny Guice; Gary Ponthieux; Wilma Rizzardi; Greg Van Stone

Commissioners Absent: Drew Allen, treasurer; Nicky Creel

HCTC Staff Members Present: Richard Forester, executive director; Crystal Johnson, director, sales; Nicole Learson, director, marketing; Traci Dauro, manager, policy & procurement; Janice Jones, manager, media relations

Others Present: Hugh Keating, legal counsel; Linda Hornsby, MS Hotel & Lodging Assn; Bob Bennett, vice president, MS Hotel & Lodging Assn; Laura Hasty, Reed Guice & Ted Riemann, the Big Three; Kristi Bennett, Airport Authority; Scott Ratcliff, MS Sports Commission; Woody Bailey, Smokin' the Sound

Commissioner Martin called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Ponthieux made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Rizzardi, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted ----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Executive Session

Commissioner Ponthieux made the motion to ENTER Closed Session to discuss the need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel items. Seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, the president called the question with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted ----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

<i>Beverly Martin</i> <i>President</i>	<i>Kenneth Montana</i> <i>Vice President</i>	<i>Drew Allen</i> <i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Rip Daniels</i> <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Hugh Keating</i> <i>Legal Counsel</i>	<i>Richard Forester</i> <i>Executive Director</i>
<i>Nicky Creel</i> <i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Danny Guice</i> <i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Gary Ponthieux</i> <i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Wilma Rizzardi</i> <i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Greg Van Stone</i> <i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Bill Holmes</i> <i>Ex-Officio</i>

Commissioner Ponthieux made the motion to ENTER into Executive Session, to discuss personnel items. Seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, the president called the question with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted ----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to RECONVENE from Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Rizzardi, the president called the question with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted ----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Legal Counsel reported No Action was taken, reports only.

Madam President read the following statement in reference to the recent interview done by Richard Forester with the Sun Herald, to be included in the minutes of this meeting as stated below:

“It is readily apparent those comments were said in jest, but never the less were inappropriate and insensitive during these times. The Harrison County Tourism Commission does not condone, adopt or approve the handling of public relations in this fashion”.

Minutes

Commissioner Montana made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2008 meeting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted ----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted ----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted ----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 18, 2008 meeting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted ----	Absent
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Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Forester reported the December 16, 2008, disbursements as follows: check disbursements for 12/16/08--\$886,797.99; grand total disbursements--\$886,797.99. Commissioner Guice moved these disbursements be approved. Seconded by Commissioner Rizzardi, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Mr. Forester reported on the room tax receipts. Fiscal year comparison of hotel sales tax collections for December 16, 2008 – actual 3% collection was \$307,182.52 with HCTC's 2.25% share being \$230,386.89 for a -2.33% change in total collection, and total loss of -3.55% year to year change, reflecting just this month's collections.

Mr. Forester reported on the World Choice Travel Revenue received for November 2008 in the amount of \$895.09 for a year to date total \$1,505.18.

Old Business

The Commissioners looked over the schedule and will vote for the 2009 Commission meeting dates at the January 6, 2009 meeting.

Linda Hornsby briefed the Commission on the Hotel & Lodging Association occupancy report for October 2008.

New Business - None

Legal Counsel Report – Hugh Keating

Reported on the proposed architect contract from Ely, Guild, Hardy, need to set up an Ad Hoc on Office Relocation Committee meeting. Also been working on Personnel issues with Mr. Forester.

HCTC Reports

Commissioner Montana reported on the Events Committee meeting held Friday, December 5th with the following recommendations:

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve the sponsorship request from Smokin' the Sound in the amount of \$25,000 with stipulations approved by the Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Guice, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes

Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve the request to sponsor from the Mardi Gras Mambo-cue 2009 Pass Christian in the amount of \$3,000 with stipulations approved by the Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana reported on the Advertising meeting held Monday, December 15th with the following recommendations:

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve the Internet and radio campaign in Alabama and Utah to promote the MS Gulf Coast to Sugar Bowl fans in the amount of \$50,230. Seconded by Commissioner Ponthieux, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve advertising with Compass Marketing for this Spring Travel Planner in the amount of \$15,995. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve advertising in the Group Tour Magazine Annual Travel South Tour Planner in the amount of \$2,941.17. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Commissioner Montana made the motion to approve advertising with Compass Marketing for the Mississippi Travel Guide in the amount of \$4,195. Seconded by Commissioner Daniels, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.

Richard Forester, Executive Director

Bill Holmes, MCCCC, ex-officio - absent

Reminders:

1. Office Closed – Thursday, December 25th & Friday, December 26th – Christmas Holiday
2. Office Closed – Thursday, January 1st & Friday, January 2nd – New Years Holiday
3. Legislative Luncheon & Reception – Jackson, MS – January 7th

Commissioner Montana moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, the president called the question, with the following results:

Commissioner Allen	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Creel	Voted -----	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Guice	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Montana	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Ponthieux	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Rizzardi	Voted -----	Yes
Commissioner Van Stone	Voted -----	Yes

The motion having been duly made, seconded, and a favorable vote received from the Commission, the president declared the motion adopted December 16, 2008.