



**Pekin Visitors Bureau - Tourism  
Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 10th, 2015  
4:00pm, City Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Leigh Ann, Darin, Kaci, and Emily.  
Absent: Charlotte and Lelonie

- 1.0 Tourism Grant applications
  - 1.1 Pekin Diversity: Dessert Competition and Tasting – Motion made by Emily to approve the grant in the amount of \$386.26, seconded by Kaci, motion carried.
  - 1.2 Sent applications by email and hardcopy to Avanti's Dome for their events and also other organizations to submit grant applications.
  - 1.3 Pekin Main Street will submit grants for their Halloween parade and Christmas on Court.
  
- 2.0 Tourism activities
  - 2.1 Wind Symphony – Would like to come back to Pekin in July of 2016. The cost would be \$25,000. The Visitors Bureau would have to find housing for the concert members. Waiting to receive a list of all the musicians. We would need a committee to help organize this and ask businesses for donations. Leigh Ann will contact previous steering committee members and other groups with cultural missions to see if she would be interested in spear heading this event.
  - 2.2 Pekin Arts Council "PAC" – upcoming meeting on Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> with Art leaders, instructors and business owners to discuss opportunities and build on First Friday's
  - 2.3 Diversity Events – upcoming committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss Christmas projects and their festival to be held in May.
  - 2.4 Pekin Community Tourism Forum update –
    - 2.4.1 Next meeting Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – Prison is hosting with 16 attendee's so far. Pekin Hospital to host next month.

- 2.5 Pekin Public Library Grand Opening – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
- 3.0 Advertisements/Public Relations
  - 3.1 Downtown Art – Looking at possibly utilizing areas downtown to hang art. Possibly use Tourism and TIF funds to purchase brackets to hang from the buildings.
  - 3.2 Enjoy Peoria experience guide – full ad, use same as last year or we can have PACVB can redesign for \$100.00. Possibly get some updated pictures; Maquet’s Railhouse, Bike Trail and the new Library. Experience guide will include specific itinerary ideas for spending “a day in Pekin” with description and photos instead of listings.
- 4.0 Tourism strategic planning/budget
  - 4.1 Bike Trail – Allentown to Veteran’s Drive – Pekin Park to maintain
    - 4.1.1 PPUATS – will release grant applications soon. The Pekin Trail is top rated in this area.
    - 4.1.2 Farnsworth – assessing cost saving opportunities with energy usages at all locations; looking at solar panels for bike trail and downtown alleyways to provide safe pedestrian friendly corridors and help off-set costs.
  - 4.2 First Friday – coordination with surrounding communities. Shannon Cox had a meeting and had 18 attend. Discussed opening up for more activities.
  - 4.3 Bike Racks – looking at installing 2 bike racks at the Riverfront
  - 4.4 Canoe Trail – Ribbon Cutting was very successful, great regional turnout.
- 5.0 Other Business
  - 5.1 PACVB updates – working on the new website – more user friendly, share experiences, itineraries and open to post events
  - 5.2 Scenic Byway updates – Discussion on partnering with other groups. Still working under the North Central Council Government. Board meeting will take place in December.
  - 5.3 Downtown Park Areas - Dressing up the park-like vacant downtown lots between some of the buildings. Possibly purchase chess tables, have an area where a band can set up and/or an area for Artist to set up. Hoping to keep people moving downtown to all the businesses. With the two block area where the stop lights were taken out and now are 4-way stops has helped the downtown area with traffic and pedestrian walking. Looking into extending the red decorative brick at the crosswalks.
  - 5.4 Small Business Saturday to be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>; the City of Pekin and Chamber of Commerce are supporting this. The Small Business Saturday Proclamation will be on the November

23<sup>rd</sup> City Council Meeting. We encourage everyone to shop small business on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting – Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 4:00pm, City Hall