

**Executive Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 10 a.m.

Called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members on the call: Chip Watts; Jeff Ewelt; Dale Galland

Staff on the call: John Brewer; Brenda Maas & Dan Brooks

**Legislative Planning (Chairman Chip Watts adjusted agenda to discuss as first item)**

John noted the Governor’s special session and proposal to increase accommodations and car rental taxes to offset fire costs. Conversations about where does SEMT stand? Chip noted that customers will object to 10% (7% existing and 3% increase proposed by Governor) but if it passes that after two years those funds need to come back to tourism if not sunset. Dan noted that, in general, legislators are against any new taxes. John said that Exec Board has the authority to take a position.

Motion by Jeff, second by Dale for Dan Brooks to draft a statement that Visit Southeast Montana does not support the 3% bed tax increase; if the tax does move forward, when the tax “sunsets” the funds come back to regional tourism. Approved.

**Private Fund Budget Update**

Adjusted Private Funds budget reflects the (3) private revenue projects that were approved at September meeting. Brenda noted commissions to be paid to Windfall for their sales role and the anticipated SEMT Admin shortage ($15,262) to be transferred as necessary. This budget will be an Action Item for upcoming Board meeting.

Sponsor suggestions: Chip mentioned Cenex, Town Pump and Luv’s (on I-90) as an option. Brenda noted Holiday as a courtesy first “ask” then move on to others. John asked if any objections to asking other Regions/CVBs, after Tourism Partners are asked. No objections.

**Project Status and Discussion**

* Committee Rosters – Brenda updated all on Committees Rosters.
* Web Site Timeline – Brenda noted timeline for website, which follows the proposal that was included in the September Board Packet.
* Tear-off Map Themes & Content –Projects are moving forward, with artistic inspiration map first because the history map is more complex. Windfall will have a draft for Board meeting.

**Additional Comments**

Congratulations to Jeff Ewelt for being appointed to TAC.; Board Meeting/Call-in November 21 at 10 a.m.; Brenda to send packets by November 15.

Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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Visit Southeast Montana is managed by the Billings Chamber of Commerce