

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Tourist Development Council (TDC) on Wednesday, ~~May 16, 2007~~ September 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the County Administration Building, 1801 27th Street, Building A, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Gary C. Wheeler, County Commissioner; Members: Jon Bates, Sheryl Koenes, and Kathryn Beatty-Self, Owner/Operator Tourist Accommodations Appointees; Susan Hunt, and Councilwoman Susan Adams, Interested in Tourist Development Appointees.

Absent was Council Member Al Paternoster, Sebastian Municipal Officer; Councilmember Debra Fromang, Vero Beach Municipal Officer; and new member Ervin Roberts, Interested in Tourist Development Appointee (all excused).

Also present were IRC Staff: Jason Brown, Office of Management and Budget Director and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant.

Call to Order

Chairman Gary Wheeler called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of the May 16, 2007 Meeting

ON MOTION BY Mr. Bates, SECONDED BY Chairman Wheeler, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the May 16, 2007 meeting minutes as submitted.

Tourist Tax Revenues Updates

Mr. Jason Brown, IRC Office of Management and Budget Director, reviewed the tourist tax revenue comparison by month for Fiscal Years 1996/1997 through 2006/2007, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He explained the payments were down approximately 4%, \$5,000

from the previous year. Mr. Brown stated he did not feel it would be necessary to make any budget adjustments to the expenditures at this time because a fund balance is carried to cushion the blows when there were downturns in tourist tax revenues.

Mr. Bates asked if there was a way to track the amount being collected by the hotels and the amount being collected by the other entities. Mr. Brown responded the information should be available through the Clerk of the Court and provide a report at a later date. It was clarified that tourist tax was collected for stays longer than six months plus one day.

Budget Updates

Mr. Brown reviewed the Revenues and Expenses report, copies of which are on file in the Commission Office. He related at this point, 11 months into the year, the total revenues were \$548,000 compared to the \$626,000 budget. He noted this was a 4% shortfall from the budget but that would be absorbed.

Mr. Brown went over the Beach Restoration budget and noted to date \$10.7 million had been received in state and federal grants for beach renourishment activities. He added approximately \$500,000 comes from the tourist tax and the County was able to leverage those dollars with the state and federal grants for the various beach renourishment activities.

Other Matters

Ms. Penny Chandler, Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, commented on the numbers Mr. Brown reported. She related the numbers at the beginning of the report where the fall months were off, the reason was if the weather in the north is particularly good, people do not travel to Florida as early.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.