**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**May 7, 2013**

The Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Commission met in regular session on May 7, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 103 of the Montgomery County Courthouse. A quorum of the Commission was present.

The minutes of the April 2, 2013 Commission meeting were considered and approved.

There was no Old Business.

There we no New Business.

In Money Matters, the Commission considered a request to assist in funding the Oak Hill Cemetery Walk in the amount of $1,500. After discussion, this request was approved.

Also in New Business, the Commission considered funding a site study for a new convention center. This center would be located at the proposed site for the new 4-H grounds and would include recreation sites. John Frey introduced the concept of the new center and reported on his meetings with the Visitors Bureau Board and 4-H leadership. He reported that this new center could be supported by the County, City, Bureau, 4-H, and private donations. Kelly Bielecki explained that the 4-H fundraising and renovation efforts had reached a dead end. John Frey explained that he believes that the Commission should work through a qualifying not-for-profit corporation in order to have a site study completed with the new concept in mind. Frey believes that such a project would promote conventions and tourism. Discussion followed:

• County Commission Phil Bane noted that the John Frey reached out to the Bureau to fund the $20,000 estimated to be needed for a site study because the Bureau seems to have the funds available. The Bureau was reluctant to agree until it could be assured that 4-H was on board.

• Bureau Secretary Leslie \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reported that the issue had been discussed at the Bureau’s Board meeting the previous day and that the Bureau might support the expenditure if 4-H supports the concept.

• Gil Tobias, the architect who prepared plans for 4-H questioned why there was a need for a new site study given that plans for the site existed. He noted that a site study, master plan and facility designs exist. He believes that the existing plans could be modified in two to four months.

• Bureau Member Bob Cash asked whether the 4-H plans included the recreation fields. Gil Tobias said that they did not because of space available, but he noted that plans could be modified if more land were available.

• Dan Guard noted that he supported a community project and hoped that 4-H would be receptive to the assistance by other entities with fundraising.

• Jane Lough, Vice President of 4-H Board noted that the 4-H Board was eager and excited about the new possibilities and will consider all options. She said that 4-H always intended this project to be a community project.

• John Frey stated that he wants to secure a new site study as soon as possible so the Commission can present it to 4-H.

• Gil Tobias encouraged leaders of the stakeholder groups to meet and discuss before having a new site study done. He believes that the Commission cannot get the same level of detail in a site study as exists in the 4-H plans he has already prepared.

• Phil Bane encouraged the Commission to refrain from getting bogged down in the details – think big picture and discuss the fiscal plan.

• John Frey stated that he would attend the 4-H Board meeting on May 8. If the Bureau is not willing to support the project with funding for the site plan, the Commission will have to proceed without the Bureau.

• Elizabeth Justice stated that it sounded as if all of the stakeholders shared a common interest in the project, but she questioned whether the Commission had engaged in illegal meetings.

• Gil Tobias stated that he could revise plans as quickly as necessary. He does not believe that anyone else can be up to speed as quickly as he can.

• Dan Guard noted that the Commission is simply making an offer to the Bureau to be involved. He supports spending the money for the site study.

• Jane Lough noted that 4-H cannot build it alone. 4-H is open to ideas and willing to share legwork they have done with the group.

In officer reports, Treasurer Nicole Copeland reported that the Commission has a balance of approximately $82,000 in funds.

John Frey reported that he had recently met with innkeepers and encouraged a stakeholders roundtable.

Bureau Executive Director Sharon Kenny reported on the Bureau’s monthly’s activities.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting June 4, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Taylor, Temporary Secretary

Approved this 4th day of June, 2013

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John Frey, President

Attest:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kelly Bielecki, Secretary