MINUTES
TOURISM COMMISSION
June 13, 2019
4:00 p.m.-4th Floor Conference Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Members’ Term Attendance (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)</th>
<th>End of Current Term of Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERS PRESENT:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Lehr</td>
<td>(03-00)</td>
<td>03/13/22</td>
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<td>Gary Westcott Jr</td>
<td>(03-00)</td>
<td>03/13/22</td>
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<td>Benjamin Fliegel</td>
<td>(03-00)</td>
<td>03/13/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard DeShon</td>
<td>(05-01)</td>
<td>03/13/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEMBERS ABSENT:</td>
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<td>Matt Robertson</td>
<td>(08-06)</td>
<td>03/13/20</td>
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STAFF PRESENT:
Bruce Woody, City Manager
Ted Elo, Assistant City Attorney
Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director
Rebecca Shipp, Executive Administrative Assistant

Call to Order – DeShon called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

DeShon stated a quorum was present and the meeting would begin.
(Three members constitute a quorum. Present were Lehr, Westcott, and DeShon. Fliegel joined the meeting at 4:08)

MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2019

Lehr made the motion to approve the minutes. DeShon seconded

DeShon asked members to respond verbally if in favor

**all present responded aye verbally**

DISCUSSION OF COOK ROAD EXTENSION

DeShon introduced Andy Clements, Director of Public Works and Transportation Department.

Clements provided the commission members a handout of the MPO Downtown/Riverfront Access Study conducted in 2006 as a background on the area. Clements states the north-south transportation movement outside of the interstate is primarily on the Belt Highway. Traffic wishing to deviate from the north-south movement on the Belt moves over to Ashland and Lovers Lane. His department has looked at alleviating the congestion problems and provide
arterial transportation access east-west. One possibility is opening up and extending Cook Road. Currently the only way to get in/out of the riverfront is Mac Arthur Drive Bridge. Clements stated a possible scenario is opening up a boulevard/trafficway by rebuilding the existing cook road, cross St Joe Avenue, tie into 229, finally tying into waterworks road with a bridge over the rail tracks. Clements stated this would be helpful when the time comes to work on MacArthur Drive Bridge as well as it would serve as an alternative route while work was being conducted. MacArthur Drive Bridge is approaching the end of its lifespan and will need re-decking work in the near future. Clements mentioned another way to connect was rail trolley system but the operating costs would be very expensive.

Discussion was held among commissioners and Clements regarding examples of bridges in the area; Atchison, Kansas and Omaha, Nebraska. Also discussed was the potential location of the bridge due to topography restrictions.

Clements stated MODOT was currently examining different ways to tie into downtown.

DeShon stated SWT had different routing than what Clements is discussing

Clements responded what he is discussing is more of a trafficway and less curvy and parkway-like.

Lehr stated it should be accessible to firetrucks.

Clements responded expressway standards would accommodate higher volume of traffic, heavier construction and therefore increased construction costs.

Clements gave a handout to commission members. The handout showed examples of different types of bridges. The prefab bridges which have been used in the trail system are made in St. Louis and brought in by truck.

Clements estimates the bridge span at 150-200’. A single span bridge would be in the range of ¾ million. A cable suspension bridge would likely be 3x more.

Lehr stated a bridge is feasible.

When asked to provide a rough estimate of bridge cost, Clements responded approximately $16 million to make the connection from the interstate and get down to the river (interchange at Cook & 229 and bridge over rail tracks).

Jim Weidinger-audience member-asked if the bridge crossed the river, would Kansas have to help.

Clements responded MODOT is looking at several options on 229 with one of them being crossing the river north of the airport-which is actually Missouri not Kansas-and going south
along the river and connecting back to 36. This would be a welcome extension as it would provide access for freight to stockyard area, airport, National Guard and so on.

Lehr asked how much room was available to develop near the airport

Clements responded 900 acres

Lehr stated if the highway reached that area it could potentially open up a new industrial park for development.

DeShon asked if there were any monies currently in Clements budget for this type of road development.

Clements responded no, the monies in his budget are for existing streets. Clements mentioned an expressway would be eligible for federal funds.

Westcott asked if there would be any possibility of CIP funding.

Clements responded it has been his experience there could be some but not a lot because of the size of the project

Jim Weidinger-audience member-asked about changing the zoning at the rail tracks for a quiet zone.

Clements responded the quiet zone would be accomplished through the installation of 4 quad gates at grade crossing at an approximate cost of $500,000 per crossing. If crossings are protected, horns won’t blow.

Clements stated MPO is very supportive of the idea of getting the highway extended to the airport. Clements suggested the tourism commission make their interest know to MODOT as they are currently seeking public input.

Clements cautioned federal funds would have to come first, to do work in advance would cause project to become ineligible. Certain steps could be started but no actual work. Clements stated is would need to be approached as a shovel ready investment.

Westcott stated he had an idea for a downtown gateway he would like to see come before the commission.

DeShon responded an application would need to be submitted.

Clements suggested a letter be sent to MODOT expressing the Tourism Commission’s formal position in favor of the extension to the airport. Clements stated he believed MODOT would be making a decision this fall.
Lehr made a motion “that the Chairman of the committee and Clint draft a letter, in draft form, send it out to the commission and expect reply within 24 hours before you send it to the recipient.”

DeShon asked for clarification on the 24 hours

Lehr responded so that they hear back from commission before letter is sent out

Westcott seconded the motion

DeShon asked members to respond verbally if in favor

**all present responded aye verbally**

Marcy Bennett-audience member-asked if the application process was the same as it had been in previous years.

Thompson responded that not has changed. The application is available on the City’s website.

Bennett stated she would be submitting an application regarding wayfinding signage.

Ken Reeder-audience member- suggested emphasizing terminology of safe crossing at rail tracks rather than quiet crossing

Weidinger-audience member-inquired about the Catfish Tournament

Woody stated the City is waiting on water levels to recede before installation of the temporary boat docks.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Shipp

cc: Paula Heyde, City Clerk
    Tourism Commission Members
    J. Bruce Woody, City Manager
    Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director
    Bryan Carter, City Attorney
    Tom Mahoney, Administrative Services Director
    Mark Townsend, Technology Associate Director