



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

July 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ST. MARYS INTRACOASTAL GATEWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 5:00 pm by Mr. Gant
- II. ROLL CALL: *Mr. John Morrissey; Mr. Roger A. Weaver; Mr. John Holman; Mrs. Mary Neff; Councilman Bob Nutter; Mr. Phil Jones; Mrs. Alyce Thornhill; Mrs. Kay Westberry; Mrs. Teddie Lockhart; Mr. Gary Straight; and Mr. Jim Gant*
- QUORUM: YES XX NO

Absent: *Mr. Craig Root*

Before Guests were introduced, Mr. Gant introduced the City Manager, Mr. John Holman.

Guests: *Cheryl Hargrove; Loretta Cockrum; Kristin Springer; Mitchell Reilly; Linda Williams; Sam Colville; Ms. Linda Nutter; Ms. Tanya Glazebrook; and Mr. Jared Keever*

Mrs. Alyce Thornhill introduced Cheryl Hargrove to the committee who is the current tourism representative for the region. Ms. Hargrove gave a brief synopsis of her job and how it can aid the SMIG project.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Review and approval of minutes of May 8, 2014 - Motion by Mrs. Kay Westberry; Seconded by Mr. Philip Jones. Mr. Roger Weaver, Mr. John Holman and Mr. John Morrissey abstained from the vote. Remaining were in favor of the vote.*
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: *Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. John Morrissey and seconded by Mrs. Teddie Lockhart. All were in favor.*
- V. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – no comments at this time.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Update on the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant: *Mr. Weaver reported that approval from the Corps of Engineers has been received for jurisdictional improvements. This has been approved by DNR as well. Currently waiting for ecology report to be completed and submitted to GDOT. The construction plans are complete. Mr. Weaver feels that the project may be able to go out for bid in the Fall.*
 - B. Marketing Gateway for Public Use: *a. Temporary Public Use Signage – Mr. Weaver noted that there is currently a sign posted that advises guests to use walk-in gate versus the larger drive in gate. b. Kiwanis 4th of July Use – Mr. Gant commented that the property was not used during the day events but was used for the fireworks show. Positive feedback has been received from people who viewed the fireworks from the property. The consensus was that the location was perfect for viewing the show and not too crowded as was the waterfront area.*
 - C. Foram Report: *Ms. Loretta Cockrum introduced members of her team that was attending the meeting with her. She also mentioned several interested parties that she has brought to St. Marys to get familiar with the property and the city including a prestigious architectural firm who will be working on concept(s) for the property. Visited the Bohemian hotel in Asheville, NC that was on a smaller lot than*



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the SMIG property. A current need for the property is a marketing concept. Ms. Cheryl will look at a Tourism Product Development (TPD) grant that can be used for marketing this site. The TPD grant is a \$40,000 grant that is matched, (some with in-kind). The grant is designed for projects that will enhance visitor experience, increase visitation and add jobs. Mr. Gant noted that with the very short time to submit the application, the City Planner is working with the Economic Development Director for the City of Kingsland on submitting the package for this project. If received the grant will be awarded mid-September and the project completion date needs to be before June of 2015. Currently, \$2500 has been informally pledged by Georgia Power.

Mr. Gant thanked Mrs. Loretta and her staff for attending the meeting.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. *New Coastal Infrastructure and Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG): **New Coastal Infrastructure Grant (CIG) and Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) applications will be submitted in October. The CIG is granted through the state for \$100,000 and can be used for designs, reports and waterfront improvements. The BIG is a much larger grant and also must be used for waterfront improvements.***

VIII. **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES: NONE**

IX. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC—ANY ITEM RELATED TO THE SMIG MISSION:**

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm with a motion by Mr. Bob Nutter and seconded by Mr. Phil Jones. All were in favor.*

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

*Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.
William Jennings Bryan quoted at the Council presentation on June 14, 2010 regarding the 100 Ready Street Project*