

**Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau
Quarterly Board Meeting
Alton City Hall – Council Chambers
Thursday, September 15, 2022**

8:05 a.m.

Present: Kristi Hyten, JD Lorton, Michael Barker, Tom Guarino, Sandy Hefner, John Hopkins, Lauren Pattan, Betsy Allen, Cameo Holland, Karen Brncic, Ashley Niebur, and Jean Bruner Jachino

Absent: Patty Rotemund, Daniel Belmont, Mike McCormick, Mitch Bair, Jamie Lane

Staff: Cory Jobe, Kim Grizzell, Cathy Jo (CJ) Meininger, Laura Scarborough, Jason Troop, Beth Bear

Guest: None

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Lauren Pattan. Lauren welcomed everyone to the meeting and then passed the floor to, President/CEO, Cory Jobe.

President opening remarks: Cory welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Approval of last Board Minutes: Lauren asked the board to review the June board minutes. Tom Guarino made the motion to approve the June board minutes. JD Lorton seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Financial Updates: LTCB grant was approved for FY23. We are now awaiting the grant agreement and should start to receive funds any time now. Kim mentioned that the grant funds will be posted in the income and the final total will change as invoices come in. Lauren asked the board to review the finance report. Tom Guarino made the motion to approve the finance report. Cameo Holland seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Tourism Bureau Report: See attached report and Cory's notes.

Committee Reports: It was discussed that the Working Committees be dissolved as the bureau staff has increased in key areas including sales and sports tourism efforts. Cory mentioned that from time to time, board members will be called upon to attend certain meetings with community leaders or with projects ongoing in the region.

Old Business: See Cory's notes as they will go in depth about the Destination Signals Program.

New Business: New board members were nominated to replace past board members they are as follows:

Alton Position Laura Windisch the owner of Flock Truck Park to fill Linda Jun's position.

Restaurant Position Cathy Matthews co-owner of Blue Ridge Farms and the Barefoot in Hardin to fill Yvonne Campbell's position.

Education Position Julie Babington, Director of Annual Giving from SIUE to fill Jennifer Floyd's position.

JD Lorton made a motion to accept the above nominations. Kristi Hyten seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion was carried. Welcome to Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau Board ladies. Looking to fill the sports rep. in December 2022.

Please see Cory's notes for the Fall Advertising Update, Route 66 Projects Update, Annual Tourism Summit-Our Time to Shine! and the Tourism After Hours.

General Announcement:

1. Tom mentioned that the Single Barrel Whiskey Launch Party would be this weekend.
2. Karen said the Loopers have been busy and there were 1 dozen that arrived today and more to come this weekend. It is expected to be the biggest year yet for the Loopers. By October the Loopers will have moved south of us.
3. Karen is also retiring from the Marina but assures us she will continue to be a part of us.
4. Betsy mentioned that she is sad to see Karen retire from the Marina but is happy to see her continue support throughout the region. As we all are!
5. JD thanked the GRRTB team for all they are doing. Says Laura has done amazing things with the groups that have visited the region. Thanks to Cory Grafton Riverfront will be benefiting from grants.
6. The Alpine Coaster will be having their final inspections and final runs are going on now. Commission test data will be going to the state for approval. It takes 6 ½-7 minutes to run the coaster with a 900 ft pull back starting at the top. Guests will take the sky tour to get to the top. It will be the 33rd alpine coaster in the US and the only one in Illinois.
7. Sandy mentioned the Harvest Festival in Jerseyville this weekend, there will be a band, food, games Saturday and Sunday. Oct. 1st the Apple Fest at the Mansion where there will be crafts, vendors, and mansion tours-all family friendly!

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by JD Lorton and seconded by Tom Guarino. All members were in favor and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cory Jobe
President/CEO

JD Lorton
Secretary/Treasurer