

**Clermont County Convention & Visitors Bureau
February 24th Board of Directors Meeting**

Call To order- Chairman Jim Comodeca called the meeting to order at 11:45

Members in attendance- David Uible, Andy Kuchta, Linda Fraley, Mark Faust, Jim Comodeca, Jeff Lykins, Brian Wipprecht, Mark Calitri, and Chris Smith

Approval of January 27, 2015 Minutes- Minutes of previous meeting were submitted and reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes of 1-27-15 was made by member Andy Kuchta, seconded by Jeff Lykins. Motion passed.

Presentation of Financials- Treasurer Linda Fraley and Director Mark Calitri presented the January 2015 balance sheet and income / expense statements for the CVB. We now have a new item listed on the balance sheet. These are investments. The investments are intermediate and long term bond funds. Income and expense statement was also presented. Mark Calitri also summarized the recently completed AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) audit done by the state of Ohio on the CVB operations for years 2012, 2013, and 2014. No findings of any irregularities were noted by the examiners. A clean and clear audit report is expected from the state within the next few weeks. Motion to approve the financials as presented was made by member Jeff Lykins. Second by member Andy Kuchta. Motion passed.

Hotel Report- Member Brian Wipprecht and Mark Calitri provided comparative data on Clermont County hotels for 2014 vs. 2013. Occupancy was up, revenue was up, and revenues per room (REVPAR) were up as was the overall year's lodging tax collections. A soccer tournament cancellation last weekend because of bad weather forced several hundred room cancellations and will result in a probable poorer performance report for February 2015.

Expo Center Update- Chris Smith reported that there is still interest in development of an Exhibition Center for Clermont County. The latest community to express an interest is a combined Pierce Township and Amelia. The suggested site is the 65 acre Palmer Ranch location that straddles both jurisdictions. It is located 3.5 miles east of 275 on State Route 125 just at the township / village boundary line. It is green space and is prime for development. More information to follow as we explore locations and possible funding sources public & private.

West Clermont School District Facilities- Mark Calitri reported that the soon to be built new West Clermont High School campus facility will include 4 baseball fields, 3 soccer fields, lacrosse fields, and a possible swimming pool. The CVB is already investigating ways to partner with the athletic department of West Clermont in order to serve as a "booking agent" for those facilities, thus bringing more tournaments, more events, more visitors, and more room nights and revenue into the community.

Marketing, communications, web site- Mark Calitri reported to the board that efforts continue to expand our marketing and communication outreach into the community. The CVB continues to look for ways to gather more information and post community events to our web site.

Geocaching- The CVB has recently booked a regional geocaching event that will take place in New Richmond. More geocaching events are being pursued for Clermont County.

Soccer Update- Contracts between Red Barn site and Kings / Hammer are signed. Ground breaking for the field preparation is to occur late March. A press event will take place at that time. Two major soccer tournaments are already booked for 2016. Kings / Hammer said that it has 16 weekend tournaments bringing a conservative 10,000 room nights to our community in the first year of operations.

UC Clermont College has hired a men's and woman's soccer coach. They expect to begin college competition next year and are seeking a home field location. The CVB is facilitating meetings to encourage UC to utilize the Red Barn site for their home games.

Rowing Update- Mark Calitri provide the board a status report on preparations for hosting the U.S. National Championship this July 14th thru the 19th at Eastfork State Park (Harsha Lake).

There remains a need for more volunteers and selection of an overall operations manager for this event. It is a wonderful chance to showcase Clermont County as a top rated rowing venue. We must take advantage of this opportunity and make a favorable impression. It was agreed that a small group of board members would meet with Mark to review the current list of operational, logistical, and personnel challenges and see how best to overcome them.

Members to serve on this small sub-committee team were Jim Comodeca, David Uible, Mark Faust, and Mark Calitri.

David Uible reported on efforts to coordinate installation of high speed internet / cable to the rowing site through Cincinnati Bell. The high speed data lines will be required of any top notch rowing / regatta venue.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Comodeca at 1:05 P.M.

Signed this 24 day of MARCH 2015

CVB Secretary 