

Spokane Hotel Motel Association

May 21, 2019

Davenport Grand Hotel

In attendance:

Chris Anderson
Carol Carter
Phil Champlin
Julie Cohen
Chrissy Emerson
Chantel Fan
Marla Fruit
Cherie Gwinn
Dean Feldmeier

Toni Hansen
Tobby Hatley
Matt Jensen
Lisa Leinberger
Katelin Merchant
Elizabeth Mills
Meredith Rainville
Jody Sander
Tom Stebbins

Duane Sunwold
Travis Tramp
Ruby Whit
Charlotte Finnegan
Andrew Libsack
Kenny Smith
Rebecca Selby
Neomi Goehner
Matt Santangelo

President Julie Cohen called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Matt Santangelo with Hoopfest provided our programming. He provided us with a "State of the Union" of the event that is now celebrating its 30th Anniversary. It is still the largest 3 on 3 basketball tournament in the world with over 6,000 teams participating. Volunteers are needed! He appealed to hoteliers to support Hoopfest as it is a non profit and he wants to continue to partner with the industry in a strategic way. He stressed the concern about funding the 110% increase in security costs as well as hotel ADR during the event. He requested vigilant tracking of Hoopfest guests so they can continue to improve their data.

Following Matt's presentation, the business meeting ensued. Minutes and financials were approved with corrections.

Duane Sunwold with SCC discussed the new Hospitality, Tourism, and Event Management Certificate + Business Degree. (see attached handout for credit/class schedule) It is a refined program that is a result of merging two programs and doing away with the two year degree. It is a collaborative program that will begin Fall of 2019.

Tobby Hatley provided a government affairs update. He is researching when the Short Term Rental requirements will begin to contribute to the LTAC and TPA. He also noted that predictive scheduling did not pass in the last legislative session but it is certain to come back. The Washington Hospitality Association will work to stay ahead of it and mitigate negative impact. Locally, filing has closed for this election cycle. The Washington Hospitality Association will survey all candidates and will decide whether or not to endorse. He will share all of that information with us as it is available. Affordable housing and homelessness will be major topics. He also shared that the state association is working to gain a seat on the statewide workforce development program board of directors.

Charlotte Finnegan represented Visit Spokane for us this month. She shared that TJ Hake will be moving on to new endeavors. The sales team has big sales goals and is working diligently to hit them with their ongoing efforts. Most of the team will be travelling to a variety of tradeshow to support these endeavors.

Cherie Gwinn provided the update for the Sports Commission. She provided the monthly handout outlining new bids, won bids, and additional business they are working on. She thanked the group for comping officials and invited everyone to attend the Youth Sports Awards that takes place on June 11th.

Travis Tramp provided an update from the PFD noting that the funding for the SportsPlex is moving forward. The PFD Board will meet on May 22nd and they will be asking the County to bond the remaining financial needs.

Elizabeth Mills provided an update from Greater Spokane Inc. She provided a handout that illustrates their three pillars: Greater Growth, Greater Voice, and Greater Talent. She invited everyone to attend the Business After Hours on June 20th that will be held at the Kalispel Golf and Country Club and noted their Annual Golf Tournament on July 31st.

Under New Business Andrew Libsack and Kenny Smith introduced themselves as new members with HUB Northwest and their emphasis on risk management support specific to the hospitality sector.

Dean Feldmeier noted that with the return of Lime Bikes and Scooters there is an “opt up” option on the app that supports the Centennial Trail Fund. There was discussion on requesting signage to share with guests to promote this funding option.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.