



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tourist Development Council

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TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 19, 2018

3:30 P.M.

City Council Conference Room A

Suite 425, City Hall,

117 West Duval Street

I. Attendance

City Council President Aaron Bowman, Board Chairperson
City Council Vice President Scott Wilson, Board Vice Chairperson
City Council Member Lori N. Boyer, Board Member
Barbara Goodman, Board Member
Steven Grossman, Board Member - EXCUSED
Kirit Patidar, Board Member – EXCUSED
Craig Smith, Board Member - ABSENT
Dawn Southworth, Board Member
Jeffrey Truhlar, Board Member – EXCUSED

Rachel Merritt, Interim TDC Staff
Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
Kim Taylor, Assistant Council Auditor
Lawsikia Hodges, Deputy General Counsel

Meeting Convened 3:31 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:47 p.m.

II. Introduction – Council President Aaron Bowman, TDC Chairman

Chairman Bowman convened the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. He thanked the members for being able to convene on fairly short notice to finalize the Executive Director selection process.

III. TDC Staffing Update – Executive Director

Council Member Lori Boyer gave the report of the TDC Staff Search Committee. After interviewing 6 candidates last Friday, the committee unanimously recommends that an offer be extended to Lillian Graning, currently working for a combined tourism/economic development organization in New River Gorge, Virginia. The committee was extremely impressed by her credentials and experience and felt that she would be very good in the position. In response to a question from Chairman Bowman about her start date availability, Ms. Boyer said that she informed Ms. Graning that the committee was meeting today to make the appointment decision and would be expecting a candidate to start sometime in January. Diane Moser said that Ms. Graning had requested a starting salary of \$98,000 to be comparable to what she is currently earning in Roanoke, Virginia, given the difference in the cost of living.

Motion (Wilson): offer the Executive Director position to Lillian Graning at a starting salary of \$98,000 -

Public Comments - John Nooney said that executive directors of this type of organization tend to come and go in Jacksonville, citing several recent examples. He urged the hiring of a person that will bring leadership and excitement to the position and raise Jacksonville's profile, leveraging all of the available resources in the community.

The Wilson motion was **amended** to remove the starting salary figure; **the Wilson motion as amended was approved 5-0.**

Motion (Goodman): offer Ms. Graning a starting salary of \$98,000 -

Public comment – none

The Goodman motion was **approved 5-0**

Chairman Bowman said that office space for the TDC staff had been located on the 2nd floor of City Hall adjacent to a conference room off the atrium. Renovations on the space will begin shortly. Ms. Boyer reported that Sara Maples has accepted the TDC's offer and will start work at the TDC Administrator on December 3rd. Mr. Bowman thanked Ms. Boyer and her committee for their hard work and Ms. Boyer thanked the Employee Services Department for their outstanding work in advertising the position and evaluating and recommending several excellent candidates. Ms. Boyer said that the committee declined to name a second ranked candidate for the Executive Director position. In the event that Ms. Graning declines the offer, the committee will re-convene and may examine other applicants from the list provided by Employee Services.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Closing Comments

The next regular meeting of the TDC will be on January 10, 2019.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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Posted 11.19.18 5:00 p.m.

Tape – TDC Special Meeting