

Allegan County Tourist Council



Allegan County Parks, Recreation &
Tourism
3283 122nd Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-9088
parks@allegancounty.org
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Chairperson: Jamie Krupka

Vice Chairperson: Chris Dulac

TOURIST COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 @ 10:00am

Zimmerman Room – Human Service Building – 3255 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

**Maria
Albright**
269-686-6595
Allegan

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
Hopkins

Rick Burn
678-296-1409
Holland

Rick Cain
269-774-7918
Shelbyville

Chris Dulac
269-673-4625
Allegan

Matt Helmus
616-355-1031
Holland

**Debbie
Laraway**
269-416-0221
Pullman

Tim Perrigo
269-686-0276
Allegan

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Dulac at 10:02 am

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Maria Albright, Matthew Helmus, Tim Perrigo, Rick Burn, Scott Beltman, Debbie Laraway

Members Absent: Rick Cain,

Also Present: Brandy Gildea (Microsoft Teams), Heather Bausick, Chris Dulac (Microsoft Teams)

1. Introductions were made with new member Rick Burn. He is committed to where he lives. Involved with hiking clubs and enjoys marked hiking. Background in transportation and is a retired Captain from the NAVY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Helmus, seconded by Beltman to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Helmus, seconded by Perrigo to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

REVIEW ITEMS:

1. **Financial Statements** - Gildea stated the financial reports are in the agenda packet and displayed on the monitor; to date, money that has been spent has been on advertising and the phone line. Remaining expenditures will be WMTA Facebook posts and advertisement in the Fall Shoreline guide.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:**1. 2022 Tourist Council Meeting Schedule**

DATE	TIME	PLACE
February 15	10:00am	Board Conference Room
May 17	10:00am	Board Conference Room
August 16	10:00am	Board Conference Room
November 15	10:00am	Board Conference Room

Motion made by Beltman, seconded by Albright to accept the 2022 meeting dates. Motion carried. Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent - 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Heritage Trail Project – Helmus gave update on current status of Heritage Trail updates. Heritage Trail began 25+ years ago and over the years, signage has gone missing or is wrong. Gildea stated that the money to fund this project would be requested as a capital funding project which would be in the 2023 budget so there is still time to discuss changes. Some changes suggested are as follows:

- Change name to “Explore Allegan”
- Group stops into 3 quadrants coded by color
- Add Graafschap and Felt Mansion to list of stops
- Link sections using Allegan and Fennville as main markers
- New signage which can be more adaptable with QR codes
- Redesign literature and maps to reflect new trails
- Slogan “History, Recreation, Food, and Fun!”

Gildea would like to receive more feedback from members at the February meeting and continue discussions on what the board would like to see for this trail.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS:**1. Vacancy: term expires 12/23**

- New member has submitted her application. BOC will consider appointing her at their December meeting and if appointed she will be at the February meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Recreation trails/mapping/update website
2. Welcome signage for people coming into County

ROUND TABLE:

Dulac – none

Perrigo – Iron Bridge Bar has new owners. Bubba's will have new ownership. Downtown Allegan will have Festive Friday's this holiday season. Hotel is plotting along, needs to break ground by July 1, 2022.

Helmus – Very busy in Holland. All-time record this year. Prepping for tulip time in May. ODC has a new outdoor park in Holland.

Albright – Game area getting closer to being back to normal. Still short staffed and advises any callers to reach out by email/webpage as that is always staffed and replied to timely. Doing a deer check for disease this year and need to meet a quota and says to let hunters know to turn in their deer heads for testing. Covid in deer testing is just a data point being collected. There should be no apparent risk to humans who consume venison in relation to these Covid/Deer statistics.

Beltman- At annual commissioners meeting, the road commission stated they haven't had any issues with the new ORV ordinance and Sheriff Baker also said reports have been uneventful.

Burn – Goal as a member is to help the county development. Noted that as he stopped at a welcome center in Coldwater that staff was looking for Allegan County literature to display.

Laraway – Beautify Pullman is placing planters and painting a mural in Pullman. Beautify Pullman would like a spot on the Heritage Trail map as a stop. Business is good at Pizza Plus.

Gildea – none

Bausick – none

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 15, 2022 @ 10:00 in Board Conference Room (County Service Building – 3283 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010)

A motion was made by Beltman, seconded by Perrigo to adjourn the meeting at 10:57am. The motion carried.