

**Meeting Summary  
Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC)  
October 16, 2019**

**TAC Attendees:** Sue Adler, Melinda Allen, Mark Dana, Vaughnette Goode- Walker, Bill Lovett, Joe Marinelli & Michael Owens

**TAC Absences:** Michael Ambrose, Charlie Brazil, & Clinton Edminster

**City Staff:** Susan Broker, Edward Grant, Matt Krueger, Jonika Rountree & Rachel Scott

**Guest Attendees:** Beth Nelson; Film Commissioner, Stephen Yetman; Council of Dads location manager, & Genevieve Hawkins

**Chair's Report**

Chairwoman Melinda Allen opened the meeting by asking for any comments on the September 18, 2019 minutes. Michael Owens made the first motion to pass the minutes from the September 18 meeting. Bill Lovett seconded the motion to pass minutes with no objections.

**Director's Report – Susan Broker**

**Special Event Ordinance and Tour Service for Hire Ordinance Recap**

October 10- Council Workshop and Agenda- Special Event Ordinance. The Special Event Ordinance was presented at Council on October 10, 2019. There were concerns about parade routes and staging areas from several council members. After receiving Council direction, staff addressed the concerns, made modifications to the ordinance and presented at Council Workshop on October 24, 2019 for second reading. The ordinance was voted on and was passed during City Council regular meeting on October 24, 2019. The key changes of the ordinance include: Application submission requirements, name of ordinance, ability to submit event application one year in advance, and grounds for denial of event. It was agreed upon by City Council and the Office of Special Events, Film, and Tourism (OSEFT) there would be no changes to parade routes until April 2020

**Tour Service for Hire Ordinance Modifications (TSFH)**

The TSFH ordinance was passed at the October 24<sup>th</sup> Regular City Council meeting. Modifications include the reference of Pedicabs and the inclusion of the Horse Carriage and Quadricycle Ordinances.

Pedicab Changes-

- Ability to register as a tour service provider under Article R;
- Pedicab driver minimum age changed to 16; applicants cannot be convicted of felony crimes committed against persons; and

- Expansion of boundaries: North, South, East, West boundaries; permitted exceptions; permanent prohibitions; permitted only to cross; time restrictions; bike lane usage; Forsyth Park Band Shell lot.

The primary purpose of a pedicab is transportation. If a pedicab elects to register as a tour service vehicle, they will be required to pay preservation fees and the tour service fee.

#### Quadricycle Changes-

Sec. 6.1577. - Movement of quadricycles in City.

- Quadricycles shall only operate in the area encompassing Jefferson Street to the west, Oglethorpe Avenue to the south, Abercorn Street to the east, and Bryan Street to the north.
- Quadricycles may access Montgomery Street north of Congress Street. Quadricycles may cross Bay Street to access Williamson Street and Indian Street only at the signalized street lights on Montgomery and Jefferson Streets; provided that no quadricycle may cross Bay Street at any time between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- The ban of alcohol on quadricycles was not passed. The boundary changes will be used as a trial to see if the boundary changes fix any of the ongoing concerns and complaints.

Mr. Lovett reiterated discussion from previous TAC meetings stating TAC agreed to change the quadricycle boundaries first to address the complaints and if that did not work then to ban the alcohol. TAC never supported the boundary changes and the ban of alcohol at the same time.

Melinda Allen supports the TSFH changes concurring- Council does not feel that this is “the look” we want for the Savannah National Historic Landmark District. Additionally, Ms. Allen agrees with the ban of alcohol from quadricycles.

#### **Rousakis Plaza for Events**

Ms. Broker recapped her meeting she and other City staff had with the organizations that use Rousakis Plaza for events. These organizations are Unity in the Community, Savannah Waterfront Association and Savannah River Street Art Association. Stating the use of Rousakis Plaza for events will be added to the Special Events ordinance to help alleviate the over use of the plaza and address the many complaints the City receives regarding the negative impact these events have on the River Street businesses.

#### **Upcoming Filming Impacts**

Council of Dads- Stephen Yetman; Council of Dads Location Manager spoke on the upcoming impacts the NBC episodic television series may have on the city.

- Council of Dads will be filming October 24, 2019- February 20,2020
- There will be 9 episodes filmed and locations change almost daily
- The crew can only confirm filming locations 4-5 days out and are only able to notify the public 72 hours in advance of any changes. Episodic series are filmed very fast and by a different director each time. The director doesn’t arrive until 7 days out from shooting.
- All film notices will be on Yellow paper effective immediately in efforts to set a standard notification system so the public gets used to seeing it and will associate yellow notices with filming.

- Stephen mentioned the challenge with advance notices is misinformation. Too much information in advance could hinder the actuality of the impact.

### **Other Business**

Bonaventure Cemetery

Rachel Scott spoke on some of the issues Richard Gerbasi; Director of Bonaventure Cemetery is having with Bonaventure. Issues include; maintenance needed, lack of respect for the cemetery, too many group tours, too many people in the cemetery at one time and lack of parking available. We will invite Richard to talk at the next TAC meeting to discuss what TAC can do to help.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:           **Next meeting: November 20, 2019 – City Hall Media Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**