

**GATLINBURG DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
SPECIAL EVENTS WORK GROUP MINUTES**

September 26, 2007

The Gatlinburg Department of Tourism Special Events Work Group met on September 26th, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Convention Center. **The following members were present:** Mr. Kevin Tierney, Mr. Marc Postlewaite, Mr. Dennis McAvoy, Mr. George Hawkins, Ms. Vickie Simms, and Mr. David Perella.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. David Perella called the meeting to order.

SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be selected at the next meeting when there are more members present.

INCLUSION OF BUSINESSES INTO THE WORK GROUP MEETINGS

The group decided that they should invite businesses throughout the City to be included in this Work Group since they are involved and located within many events in Gatlinburg. Mr. George Hawkins will work on a list of businesses that he works with regularly to find willing participants to be invited to future meetings.

AGENDA ITEMS

The Scope of this Work Group: This group oversees and has deeper knowledge of Special Events and can make better, more concise, recommendations to TAB. This Work Group wants to work to get the events back to their original content and work toward the goal of “Using Special Events to bring people to Gatlinburg.”

Mr. George Hawkins presented the Gatlinburg Winter Magic Proposal. **Mr. Dennis McAvoy motioned to approve Winter Magic Tunes and Tales, seconded by Mr. Marc Postlewaite.** Mr. David Perella stressed that we try this Tunes and Tales plan this year and build on it for the future. Ms. Vickie Simms mentioned that we could also look into including the burning of a Yule Log into the Winter Magic event. Mr. George Hawkins will be looking for a location and outlining the specifics to perhaps include the log burning (an update will be at next meeting).

The discussion of next year’s Mountain Fest dates was also discussed. It was thought that the event did not represent the Arts and Heritage of Gatlinburg last year. **Mr. Dennis McAvoy made a motion that Mountain Fest be held on Memorial Day Weekend, seconded by Mr. Kevin Tierney.**

The Work Group requested that they receive a complete listing of all Special Events in calendar format (included in Special Event section of TAB packet).

The Group also had discussions about the current Trolley Routes – particularly routes or issues dealing with the Arts and Crafts Community/Glades/Highway 321. Mr. David Perella suggested that the Arts and Crafts Community put together a Trolley Plan for their area and take it to City Commission.

SCHEDULE NEXT TAB MEETING

The next Special Events Work Group Meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Board Room at the Gatlinburg Convention Center**. There may also be a practice presentation of the Winter Magic Tunes and Tales Performers.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

There were no unscheduled items.