



CITY OF ST. MARYS
418 OSBORNE STREET
ST. MARYS, GEORGIA 31558

St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ward Hernandez Building, St. Marys Welcome Center, 400 Osborne Street, St. Marys GA
MINUTES: **November 19, 2024, 3:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order – Darlene Landreth
- II. Roll Call – Darlene Landreth, Judy Thurner, Tyler Carpenter, Allen Rassi, Mardja Gray, Valerie Fautz
Absent: Sugar Yadav, George Lee, Jane Alexander. Angela Wigger.
Quorum: Yes
- III. Approval of the October 2024 Minutes
Motion to Approve the October 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented by Allen Rassi, Seconded by Valerie Fautz. No discussion. APPROVED.
- IV. Granting Audience to the Public (any speakers should provide name and address) - None
- V. **Motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Community Market Management Discussion by Valerie Fautz under New Business, Item 3 by Tyler Carpenter and seconded by Judy Thurner. No discussion. APPROVED.**
- VI. Other Business
 1. Cumberland Island and/or CRSP Updates – Park Staff as available (NPS: Sarah Koenen, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Outreach; Pauline Wentworth, Interpretation & Education Technician; or Superintendent Melissa Trenchik) – Per Angela Wigger, no staff available today. NPS did send out a press release and post about their efforts to transfer Carol Ruckdeschel’s collection natural and cultural resources.
- VII. Old Business
 1. Community Market Report – Valerie Fautz stated that vendors are good and they are in a transition right now with the management of the market. \$490.00 was collected in October for mostly October rent but some November and January.
 2. December meeting discussion – Angela Wigger: Plan Dec. 17th or cancel due to lack of agenda items and call special meeting if required. **Motion to Approve canceling the December meeting due to lack of agenda items by Tyler Carpenter was seconded by Mardja Gray. APPROVED.**
 3. Board Term Expiration on 1/31/2025 - Reminder of Board Term Expirations – Darlene Landreth reviewed the 2025 expirations which include Jane Alexander, Tyler Carpenter, Valerie Fautz, Darlene Landreth, and Judy Thurner.
 4. Seafood Festival Update – Judy Thurner shared that overall, they were steadier with people throughout the day. The free concerts in the park were fantastic and the free rides for children were well used. Both brought a lot of people to the park and the festival. Kiwanis was very happy with the number of people that attended. They have received amazing compliments the festival and the appreciated the amount and diversity of publicity that was out on the festival. Judy complimented Angela Wigger on her assistance and work. The only downside was the dogs that still attended the event besides being asked not to bring pets. They received comments about how good the quality of

their vendors was. They had 175 vendors originally and lost 40 with the date change, they got 20-25 new vendors, so still the highest number of vendors to date.

VIII. New Business

1. DCA Annual Registration & Finance Report (ARFA) and require immigration report – Due 12/31. Angela Wigger will have all required reports done and a copy will be sent to the city manager and to Darlene Landreth.
2. SMCVB Annual Report to City Council on December 2nd – Darlene Landreth stated she and Angela Wigger would be presenting our annual report at the December 2nd meeting and invited board to attend.
3. Community Market management discussion – Valerie Fautz shared there has been some issues with Ashley Hulett, and she is not working out. She and Angela Wigger discussed, and they do feel the best thing, at this time, is to put the management of the market back under tourism staff and keep Valerie as a market liaison. The change would take place January 1st. **Allen Rassi made the motion to approve the management of the community market to come back under the tourism staff. Tyler Carpenter seconded. Discussion: confirmed that there were no charges to the vendors for December. Confirmed that Misti Kline will handle for a few weeks and offered to continue to handle and that we are appreciative of her efforts. Confirmed the effective date would work well as January 1st for tourism to take over.**
APPROVED.

- IX. Hotel/Motel Tax, St. Marys Financials – Angela Wigger reviewed reports: October bed tax reported and collected was \$14,543,16. Total revenue collected to date is \$105,528. Last year at this time, we had collected \$104,292. Total year to date expenditures are \$133,037 with 4 out of 12 months reported.
- X. Business & Event Updates/ Other/Marketing – Angela Wigger reported: had a vendor meeting with Epsilon for prospective digital advertising services in 2025, conducted weekly military member orientations, SM-CI has been featured in 69 published results generating over 30.1 Billion impressions from July 2024 to November 2024. Asked members to review the website calendar as there are a lot of holiday events upcoming and had printed event calendar (post cards) available for pick up.
- XI. **Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Judy Thurner, seconded by Allen Rassi.**
ADJOURNED.

Minutes by Angela Wigger