



City of Pekin

**REGULAR TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024
5:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Approve Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes from the Tourism Committee Meeting on October 7, 2024

4. Public Input

5. Unfinished Business

5.1. Christmas on Court

6. New Business

6.1. Bicentennial Funding Update

7. Any Other Business to Come Before the Committee

8. Adjourn



City of Pekin

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOURISM COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 AT 5:00 PM**

Call to Order

With both the Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson absent, Director of Economic Development Josh Wray called the Tourism Committee meeting to order at 5:03 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.

A quorum was established.

Members present: Amy McCoy, Chris Dunn, Mel Matthews, Emily Lambe

Approve Agenda

Emily Lambe moved to approve the agenda, seconded Mel Matthews. Motion approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes from the Regular Tourism Committee meeting on September 3, 2024

Amy McCoy moved to approve the minutes from the Tourism Committee meeting on Tuesday Sept. 3, 2024, as presented, seconded by Mel Matthews. Motion approved by voice vote.

Public Input

None

New Business

5.1. Christmas on Court

The 23rd Annual Christmas on Court Event will be held on December 6, 2024. After a discussion about possible new additions to the event such as a Christmas Market, Emily Lambe moved to allow extra Tourism funds up to \$14,500 for the event, seconded by Chris Dunn. Motion approved by voice vote.

5.2. 2025 Events

The Committee discussed the following topics:

- Continue Downtown Concert series, but maybe just 2 concerts.
- Dragon Jam at Avanti's Dome.
- Possible new events discussed were a Hot Air Balloon Glow, an event on the riverfront, an event held on the south side of town near Derby Street.

5.3. Discover Pekin Website / Social Media Changes

McDaniels Marketing will add information on the available tourism grants. A list of hosting venues in Pekin will also be posted as well as blogs on how one can spend a day in Pekin.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Committee

Josh Wray inquired about the possibility of hiring Sports Facility Companies to complete a feasibility study for a sports events/complex in Pekin, which would include what the area market will demand, what would be the best size and layout, what it should offer, staffing needs, etc. No motion was taken and discussion is to continue at a future meeting.

Adjourn

Amy McCoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20, seconded by Emily Lambe. Motion approved on voice vote.



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Agenda Date: November 4, 2024
To: Members of the Tourism Committee
From: Joshua Wray, Economic Development Director

AGENDA ITEM: Bicentennial Funding Update

DESCRIPTION: Additional funding from the Tourism Fund was approved in the current budget for bicentennial events and activities. Since the bicentennial technically ends in two months, I wanted to share the available funding with the Committee:

Budget: \$50,000
Spending to date: \$17,536
Available funds: \$32,464

There is no special requirement for the use of these funds other than the regular requirement that tourism dollars be spent to help promote tourism and conventions or to attract overnight non-resident visitors to Pekin. These funds are budgeted in the Special Events line item, so they could very well be used for Christmas on Court or other special events if no other bicentennial activities are planned.