



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, FEBRUARY 16, 2026 AT 5:00 PM**

Call to Order

The Tourism Committee meeting was called to order at 5pm by Chairperson Melanie Matthews.

Roll call

Present: A. McCoy, C. Dunn, S. Powers, and M. Matthews

Absent: C. Galyean, J. Master, E. Lambe

A quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

Powers moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by McCoy. Motion approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes from the Regular Tourism Committee Meeting on December 1, 2025

Dunn moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Powers. Motion approved by voice vote.

Public Input

Brian Wonders gave an update on events coming to Avanti's Event Center now through May.

Reports

5.1. Discover Pekin Quarterly Reports

Mr. Wray presented the monthly reports. There were no questions.

Presentations

6.1. Presentation of Requests for Event Sponsorship Funding

The following organizations made funding request presentations over approximately 1 hour:

1. SuperCruise - \$3,500
2. Cruise-in on the River - \$4,500
3. Famers Market - \$5,000 for the market season
4. Winter Wonderland - \$3,000
5. Pekin Pride Soccer Tournament - \$10,000
6. Disc Golf - \$10,000 for two events
7. Pekin Main Street - \$8,500 for two events
8. Pekin Insurance Holiday Tournament - \$5,000
9. Pekin Chamber 4th of July Fireworks - \$15,000
10. Pekin Chamber Marigold Festival - \$10,000

The Committee also received written requests for funding from AJGA Jr. Golf Tournament (\$2,250) and Twisted Cat Fishing Tournament (\$7,500).

New Business

7.1. FY27 Budget Recommendation

The Committee discussed the Tourism Fund budget prepared by staff for approximately 30 minutes. Major areas of discussion included event sponsorships, and City events including cutting one downtown street concert.

7.2. Discussion on 2026 City Events

The Committee discussed the various City events planned for 2026 with a determination to continue the hot air balloon festival, one downtown street concert, and Christmas on Court.

7.3. Discussion on Blog / Social Media / Video Ideas

McCoy asked the Committee to peruse the Discover Pekin website and other communities' tourism pages to suggest improvements.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Committee

Chairperson Matthews noted that Chris Dunn had submitted her resignation from the Committee and thanked her for her service.

Adjourn

Powers moved to adjourn at 6:59pm, seconded by Dunn. Motion approved by voice vote.