Date: March 8, 2017  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: TPD LEC, 324 S. Kansas Ave., Classroom A

Committee Members Present: Councilmembers Elaine Schwartz (Chair), Jeff Coen, and Karen Hiller.

City Staff Present: Bill Fiander (Planning), Nickie Lee (Finance), Lisa Robertson & Mary Feighny (Legal).

1. Meeting was called to order by Councilmember Schwartz.

2. Approved minutes from June 7, 2016 meeting.

3. Possible Multi-year Visit Topeka Contract with City

   Brett Oetting, President & CEO of Visit Topeka, Inc. (VTI), made comments on the benefits of a multi-year contract with the city, stating that it would be helpful in the bidding process to know the funds are available over the next several years for future events. He stated that Hutchison, Olathe, Salina & Overland Park have been successful with multi-year contracts. Councilmember Coen moved to recommend to the Governing Body, changing the VTI contract term from one year to three years. Councilmember Hiller seconded. Motion passed with a vote of 3-0. Councilmember Schwartz stated that she is comfortable with recommending that this change is made effective for 2017.

4. TBID for the Downtown Plaza & Update on Project

   Kurt Young, Topeka Lodging Association, stated that the Downtown Plaza project is progressing and is expected to be completed in 2019. He stated that the TBID is a very focused amount of money that will be spent only on the Downtown Plaza project. A preliminary presentation of the development agreement for the plaza project, which includes the operational plan and budget, will be a discussion item on the March 14th council agenda.

Mike Patterson, Historic Harley Davidson, gave an update on the Evel Knievel Museum. Anticipates the museum may be open with the next 45 to 60 days, if all goes well. This week the project was mentioned in the New York Times, and on the Travel Channel.

Jeff Carson, Jayhawk Theatre, introduced John Holecek, the new Executive Director. Jeff stated that they are working on marketing and continue to be successful with fundraising. Jeff said they are creating a fund raising film to tell the story of why the Jayhawk Theatre is so important to downtown Topeka.

Grant Glenn, Constitution Hall, gave an update on the progress on Constitution Hall. He stated that they have architects and engineers working on the new facade design. They are working on building their Board. The Rotary Club has sponsored the park that is adjacent to Constitution Hall that includes placards that tell the story of the two historical events in that block; Constitution Hall and the Brown v. Board trial. They are in the process of building picnic tables to host student groups when they tour. The Freedom Festival this year will stretch from the Capital grounds to Constitution Hall with reenactments and much more.

6. Overland Station Ended: Summary of Project & Future Plans Wrap Up

Bill Fiander, City Planning Director, gave an update on the Great Overland Station project. TGT funding ended in 2016.

Bette Allen, Overland Station President & CEO, reviewed what the TGT funds paid for, such as a new chiller and security locks. They will be evaluation future maintenance needs and funding options.

7. Capitol Building Being Open on Weekends

Brett Oetting stated that they expect to have the Capitol Building open for visitors/tours on Saturday’s only, starting this summer. He stated that the Historical Society is working on funding sources for signage that would go inside and outside the Capitol, about weekend tours.
8. Airbnb Homesharing Short Term Rentals

City Charter says 8 rooms or more constitutes a hotel room, and those businesses pay transient and sales taxes. A smaller bed n’ breakfast, that had less than 8 rooms, would not have to pay these taxes. The City Charter would have to be changed to classify that a hotel is 2 bedrooms or more, to include airbnb’s.

9. 2018 Proposed Budget

Nickie Lee, City Finance Director, reviewed the budget timeline for 2017. She recommended that the committee meet in late-April or early-May to approve the proposed 2018 TGT budget. Nickie offered to share quarterly report information with the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The video of this meeting can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Lxi0TdnTi4&feature=youtu.be