

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF DELANO**  
**Spirit of Community Commission**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ted May at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members present:** Dale Graunke, Theresa Green, Sarah Grosshuesch, Diane Johnson, Chad Kestner, Ted May, Becky Schaust

**Liaison:** Molly Fleming, Nick Neaton

**Guests:** Janell Gildemeister

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A. October 8, 2019

On a motion by Diane Johnson, seconded by Chad Kestner, minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

**4. Additions to the Agenda**

**5. Order of Business**

A. Membership update

The SOCC were Introduced to potential commission member, Janell Gildemeister. She will be confirmed by City Council at the November 26 meeting.

B. Icebreaker Question

Commission members shared their reflections on the topic of “three shining moments in one’s life.”

C. Lodging tax discussion

Molly presented estimates on lodging-tax revenues, based on occupancy data from GrandStay Hotel in Delano.

Number of rooms: 54

Average cost per room: \$130

Average occupancy rate: 65%

Projected tax revenue, based on these rates:

1% tax - \$16,425/year

2% tax - \$33,245/year

3% tax - \$49,822/year

SOCC members had several questions about the tourism bureau and the lodging tax, including:

How is the tourism bureau established?

Where is the oversight of the tourism bureau?

Who is responsible for the work?

What other partners would we want involved with this?

Does it discourage people from visiting the hotels?

What are we going to market? What is our purpose?

Is there a timeline from the state as to when the tax can start?

Who would be doing the actual marketing work?

What is considered *tourism*?

How does the money flow work? Hotel to state, state to City? Will we get taxed on this?

City staff will look into these questions and more, and report to council.

Chad Kestner made a motion to recommend enacting a 3% lodging tax. Sarah Grosshuesch seconded it.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### D. Policy spotlight - snow removal

Nick introduced the City's current policy concerning snow removal on residential sidewalks. Currently, it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove the snow from the sidewalk within 24 hours after a snowfall. Nick said City Hall staff report that uncleared sidewalks are one of the most common resident complaints each winter.

SOCC members reviewed a document from the Minnesota Department of Health about snow removal from sidewalks in cities. Minnesota cities have a variety of different approaches to sidewalk snow removal, including having City staff assume responsibility for all snow removal on residential sidewalks.

SOCC members questions included: Is this a major problem? Are the complaints coming from a small or large number of different properties?

Becky moves that we review our current policy for its relevance and enforcement. Dale seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Nick will share this recommendation with City Council at an upcoming meeting.

#### E. Presence at Delano's Old-Fashioned Christmas Saturday, December 7

The SOCC will again have a booth at the Old-Fashioned Christmas event. The group decided to give away "Delano Dollars" gift cards - 20 gift cards at \$5 each. Festivalgoers will register at the SOCC booth, where they will also have an opportunity to indicate their interest in volunteering with the City. Becky Schaut's realty team will donate the Delano Dollars.

Shift workers include: Sarah: 12 - 2 p.m. Theresa: 10 - 2. Ted: 10 - 2.

Sarah will provide glow-in-the-dark jewelry handouts. Nick will provide mini candy bars.

Other giveaway items will include: SOCC brochures, business cards, and pencils.

#### F. Remodel/home improvement fair event

Nick will meet with the Delano Area Chamber of Commerce executive committee on December 8 at noon to discuss this possibility.

#### G. US Census County Committee Update

Molly will check on the status of our census count committee's registration. It is possible to qualify for a small grant to do a promotional event. The City will also share census information on the electronic sign.

#### **6. Other Business**

Dale mentioned the "neighborhood ambassador" concept that the SOCC discussed at one time. We will place this item on a future meeting's agenda.

#### **7. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dale and seconded by Sarah, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. at Delano City Hall