

## Tourism Commission Minutes

October 14, 2008

### Minutes

**PRESENT:** County Board Chairman Manar; Commission Members: Mickey Robinson, Jodie Padgett, Nelson Grman, Vera Pratt, and Courtney Wood; Sarah Black and Lea Hudson representing the Christmas Market

Chairman Manar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

The Commission was reminded of the Route 66 Master Plan presentation that is to be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the County Board Room.

Lea Hudson representing the Carlinville Christmas Market made a presentation regarding the request for support from the County Tourism Fund to help support advertising this year's Christmas Market. Hudson informed the Commission that a State grant in the amount of \$5000 was received this year to help advertise the Christmas Market. The request from the county Tourism Fund totaled \$7,140.52.

A lengthy discussion took place. Commissioner Robinson asked if the Tourism Fund could sustain the request this year. Chairman Manar said that he had checked the balance of the Tourism Fund and that the request of the Christmas Market could be paid if the Commission and the full Board agreed.

Commission members discussed the grant and would like to see other organizations in the County apply. Chairman Manar said that currently, on the Carlinville Christmas Market meets the statutory requirements for accessing revenues raised from the County hotel/motel tax in the Tourism Fund.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Pratt, seconded by Grman, to recommend to the Economic Development Committee of the County Board approval of a Tourism Grant in the amount of \$7,140.52 to the Carlinville Christmas Market for marketing and that the Christmas Market report back to the Tourism Commission the areas in which the grant was used to advertise and that the Market be advertised in all County newspapers. All in favor, **Motion Carried.**

The Commission then discussed the website development. Sarah Black was present to provide feedback to Commissioners regarding possible web addresses as well as the content of the website.

Courtney Wood provided possible web addresses for the site. Chairman Manar explained that a new tourism only site separated from the County Government site would enhance both.

The website will be discussed at length at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.