



# CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

## TRANSIENT GUEST TAX COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL  
City Hall, 215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 255  
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**Date:** May 23, 2024

**Time:** 3:00pm

**Location:** Classroom A; Law Enforcement Center 320 S. Kansas Ave  
(virtual option also available)

**Committee members present:** Councilmembers Brett Kell, Marcus Miller, Michelle Hoferer (Chair)

**City staff present:** Budget Manager Josh McAnarney, Interim Chief Financial Officer Ben Hart

**Non-City staff present:** Executive Director Topeka Lodging Association Kurt Young, Director Marketing & Development Historic Jayhawk Theatre Joanne Morrell, President Visit Topeka Sean Dixon, CEO Greater Topeka Partnership Matt Pivornik, President Sunflower Sports Association Dustin Gale

### 1) Call to Order

Committee member Hoferer called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

### 2) Approve March 19, 2024 Minutes

Committee member Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairwoman Hoferer approved. Minutes approved 2-0-0.

Committee member Kell joined Meeting

### 3) Review of Quarter One Reports

Budget Manager Josh McAnarney presented information to the Committee for each of the four (4) entities that receive Transient Guest Tax funding. Information includes the total contract timeline, the organization's total budget and what was dispersed in Q1 of 2024. Mr. McAnarney noted that he would like to allow the organizations to speak for themselves but discussed details about the Evel Knievel Museum.

The Evel Knievel Museum is leaving Topeka and has not been receiving the TGT allocation. Their current undistributed allocation is \$71,922 and projected to be

around \$94,000 by the end of the year.

#### **4) Allocation of Unused TGT Funds**

Chairwoman Hoferer expressed that they have a couple options 1) Distribute to the existing groups 2) Potential ice rink at Evergy Plaza.

Kurt Young, Downtown Topeka Business Improvement District Advisory Board, made a request for the Downtown Topeka Foundation to receive the remaining funds from the Evel Knievel distribution. He added the proposal would be to build a permanent ice rink into the grassy area on the north end of the Plaza, an oval shape 14 feet wide by 150 feet long. The center area could remain grass or turf. Mr. Young reminded that the figures are estimates to allow for planning. The estimated cost would be \$832,000; covering the permanent rink, installation of glycol lines, stubbing out alley side of plaza, three chillers being mounted to north end of restroom building. From a long-term perspective, there will be a 10-15-year very low maintenance build. Would be able to utilize in other ways as well, to be used year-round. From the skate rental procured during the last season of skating, they received roughly \$132,000. They have identified three possible funding sources: 1) Been speaking with a potential sponsor (although there is no signed commitment, there is a strong feeling that the sponsorship will happen) 2) Transient Guest Tax (TGT) dollars 3) applying for ARPA funds.

Committee member Kell inquired about the measurements of the track. Mr. Young stated it would be a donut shape and would be 14-feet wide. Committee member Kell also inquired if it was possible to make the area the full width of the grassy area, to allow for small hockey leagues to be formed (such as 4x4 or 6x6 teams). Mr. Young acknowledged a full, rectangular setup could be done. The only thing standing in the way currently, would be the funding. It would cost more money to build something other than the track-style rink. Committee member Kell stated he was in support of this goal but would prefer to see a full-size rink.

Committee member Miller supports the track-style rink.

Chairwoman Hoferer inquired as to what the Committee would need to do to move this item on. Mr. Young said they would need to secure the TGT Funds and get the application process started for ARPA funding.

Chairwoman Hoferer inquired if a track-style rink was built, could the oval be filled in later to make rink larger. Mr. Young stated due to the cost it would be better to build full size in the beginning.

Committee member Kell suggested starting youth leagues on the smaller track rink. He added the revenue generated would help to support the cost to build the larger rink.

MOTION: Committee member Kell made a motion to approve the request of allocating the 2024-2027 unassigned reserve funds to the Downtown Topeka Foundation for an ice rink at Every Plaza, pending a development contract and review by City Legal. Chairwoman Hoferer suggested committing the funds to the rink, but if no ice rink is produced, the funds are returned. Committee member Miller seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

### **Adjourn**

Chairwoman Hoferer adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.

Video recording of the meeting can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/4x6QIVASpI?si=ifPTW3S59eYndAm>