

Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Joint Powers Board
Special Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2020

A special meeting of the Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Joint Powers Board was held on March 26, 2020 via conference call in number, Jackson, WY.

Call to Order/Pronouncement of Quorum:

The special meeting of the JHTTB was called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairman Gallagher. A quorum was established with board members attending via phone including, Willi Brooks, Brian Modena, Crista Valentino, Cory Carlson, Joe Madera and Erik Dombroski. County Attorney Keith Gingery was present. There were many members of the hotel community present via phone.

Public comment:

Comments were made specifically regarding the National Press Release that the JHTTB released requesting that visitors Stay Home for now and don't travel here due to the Global Pandemic and growing cases of the Covid-19 virus and for the health and safety of our community.

Jacque Riley from the Parkway Inn asked how the TTB had the authority to issue the "Stay at Home" press release. Anna Olson indicated the Wyoming Office of tourism is hosting regular calls and suggested the TTB work closely with them on the reentry campaign. Sadik Darwich, Hotel Jackson wanted a date associated with when Jackson could reopen for business. The National Parks left the park closure too open ended. Jackson Hole Resort Lodging indicated their target date now is May 1, 2020.

Board communications re: Covid-19

Message to Business community- National Press Release –

Chairman Gallagher reviewed the recent communications released by the JHTTB including the national press release and the letter to the business community. The primary concern is the health and safety of our community. The board is following guidelines for the best practices on pandemic, including social distancing and staying home in order to slow spread. Jackson is a remote community with limited resources and ideally this will shorten the crisis in the short-term in order to be ready to open when the world is open this summer. This is to minimize impact on health and business now so we may have a solid reopening for the busy summer months. Willi Brooks motioned to approve the communications as presented, seconded by Erik Dombroski, board discussion included: seeing increased tourism to other remote communities, i.e. beaches of Oregon, Joshua Tree who are also not prepared to handle crowds in a medical emergency. Board following national guidelines along with guidelines of Teton County elected officials and the Teton County Health Officer. Public discussion included a few requests by Hoteliers to put an end date or opening date out to the public. Board agreed that this is a moving target and might create confusion and disappoint visitors as they make plans only to find the dates have shifted. Board also agreed that this decision is not for this board to make. The board did add that when it is safe to travel again, the marketing campaign currently in the works can be nimble and adjust. Chairman Gallagher thanked the public for participating and providing comment and reminded all that this was a difficult decision and one not taken lightly but the board needed to get in front of this to keep the community safe. Vote was taken, motioned passed unanimously.

Matters from the Board & Consultant:

Dombroski reminded the public that the visitjacksonhole FAQ page has resources for any visitors that might still be in Jackson with a list of hotels that are still open along with restaurants, retailers and grocery stores.

Carlson made motion to adjourn, seconded by Madera, meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Modena, Secretary, Date

Approved by the Board April 9, 2020 as evidenced by the Chairman's signature below and attested to by the Board Secretary:

Attested

Brian Gallagher, Chair Date

Brian Modena, Secretary, Date