

## **Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC)**

### **Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2025**

**Date:** June 24, 2025

**Location:** Historic Savannah Foundation, Conference Room

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:40 AM

#### **TAC Attendees**

Joseph Marinelli, Charlie Brazil, Michael Owens, Sue Adler, Jason Combs, Mitch Linder, Marysue McCarthy, Denise Flojo, Ryan Madson

#### **City Staff**

Faye DiMassimo, Jason Pagliaro, Elizabeth Clark, Davita Grier, Meghan-Leigh King, Danny Henderson, Donna Cooper, Willie Gillison

#### **Summary**

Discussion focused on clarifying TAC's purpose and introducing structured planning protocols for city events. Members reviewed infrastructure demands, examined challenges with public outreach, explored updates on transportation studies, and reflected on examples of disorganization from external events. The August workshop was previewed, and administrative updates were shared.

#### **Agenda Items**

##### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Meeting called to order by M. Linder at 8:30 AM.
- March minutes were approved unanimously.
- City of Savannah will officially take over recording future meeting minutes.

##### **2. TAC Purpose & August Workshop**

- Focused dialogue on “What is TAC really about?”
- August workshop to be led by Susanne Kirk.
- Pre-meeting survey to inform the workshop agenda and establish 2–3 committee priorities to focus on.

##### **3. Event Planning Protocol**

- Inquiry into planning logistics for large events, like the half marathon.
- JPagliario outlined steps including:
  - Signed memo/contract
  - Route approval ≥30 days prior
  - Traffic control plan & community outreach strategy
  - Checkpoint time limits
- Alcohol permits and profit disclosures will be mandatory.
- Fleet Feet will provide attendance data (~6,000 expected).
- Faye suggested offering alternative venues to underprepared applicants – not able to meet guidelines in a sufficient time.

#### **4. Utilities & Infrastructure**

- MOwens asked about water, trash, and power costs during events.
- JP recommended using meter readers for monitoring.

#### **5. Nightlife Hiring Protocols**

- Marysue requested an update on Night Management; Faye noted it's pending internal review.
- JP stressed the need for thorough research in hiring for nightlife roles.

#### **6. Transportation Study & Parking**

- Marysue asked about Savannah Moves.
- Faye shared discussions began 4 weeks ago; updates coming in 30 days.

#### **7. St. Augustine Light Show**

- TAC reflected on past issues with St. Augustine's event planning, citing disorganization and lack of process as a cautionary example.

#### **8. Tour Company Licensing**

- Members noted discrepancies in licensed tour operator records.
- MO affirmed City's ongoing efforts to maintain ROW accuracy.

#### **9. Holiday 2025 Bidding**

- JP stated bid requests were sent on June 23, 2025, elaborating and emphasizing the importance of procedure.

#### **10. Outreach Challenges**

- Notices will be distributed to neighborhoods next week.
- Customized packets will be prepared for City Council districts.
- MO raised concern about engaging residents who don't read provided materials.