

MINUTES OF MEETING

Short-term Rental Board

September 11, 2023

1. Call to order

- a. The regular business meeting of the Short Term Rental Board was held on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 in Room 201 of the Community Center in Blairsville, Ga. It began at 5:01 and was presided over by Patrick Woodall, Chairman, with Laura Jenkins (Short Term Code Enforcement Officer) as Secretary.

2. In attendance

- a. Voting members: Patrick Woodall, Laura Jenkins, Karen Sweeney, Martin Pilote, AnaLuisa Salvatti, David Dyer. A quorum was present.
- b. Guests in attendance: Renee Deibert, William Mercer via phone.
- c. Members not in attendance: Susan Phillips.
- d. Recognition of visitors.

3. Reading and approval of prior meeting minutes

- a. Laura read the minutes in their entirety of the meeting held on 7.27.23.
- b. A motion was made by Laura to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports of officers and standing committees

- a. Secretary Laura Jenkins reviewed the updated "By the Numbers" document.

5. Reports of ad-hoc committees

6. Old Business

- a. Ask 911 to track STR complaint phone calls?
- b. Discussion was held, and a motion was made by Laura to ask the 911 Center to consider tracking calls made regarding STR. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

- a. Online Complaint form – Laura demonstrated the Online Complaint Form on the Union County STR Resource page.

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, or the facilities are required to contact the County Clerk at 706-439-6000 promptly to allow Union County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

- i. Action item: Laura to ask GOVos if they can add a line to the complaint form requiring complainants to attest that they have already spoken to the Registered Agent because we do not want that step skipped. Also ask GOVos if the complainant receives an email confirmation.
- b. Dealing with owner/neighbor disputes – Laura reviewed her process regarding complaints:
 - i. Capture all of the caller’s details,
 - ii. Capture details of the complaints,
 - iii. Drive out to see the location and surroundings of the STR,
 - iv. Call the owner and the registered agent to discuss.
- c. Laura then asked the board members what type of information they need when a complaint is brought to the board. They agreed with the info required on the Phone Complaint form, and asked that photos or videos from the complainant also be presented to the board.
- d. Laura then reviewed the details of several specific complaints, including the complaint regarding 64 Pilot Vista and the easement from the neighbor. Discussion was held regarding the scope of the board’s authority as written in the ordinance. Paving of the easement is a property dispute, to be handled in civil court, and is beyond the scope of this board.
- e. Regarding the definition of a Local Registered Agent, William Mercer clarified the following: a “Local” Registered Agent, by definition, is one who resides in Union County, Ga. He further clarified that amending the ordinance to change the wording from “local” to “resides in Union County, Georgia” is not necessary.
- f. Chairman Woodall recognized the visitor who called in advance to be added to the agenda, Joni Lee, owner of Suches Vacation Rental. She gave a statement regarding the complaint for 64 Pilot Vista.

8. Adjourn

- a. Laura made a motion to adjourn at 6:04, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Laura Jenkins 9/13/23
Laura Jenkins, Secretary 9.13.23