RTMG Board of Directors
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 10 AM - 12 PM
Hilton Garden Inn, 5050 Bechelli Lane, Redding, CA

Past agendas or minutes can be accessed at ChooseRedding.com or by request from the RTMG administrative office. Please call (530) 945-1566 for an appointment.

1. **Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM**
2. **Confirm Quorum:** Verbal roll call – a quorum was confirmed.

Position	**Property**	**Representative**	**Present**
Chair	Best Western Plus Hilltop	Ed Rullman	Yes
Past Chair	Hilton Garden Inn	Greg Knoell	No
Vice Chair	Oxford Suites	Ryan Rydalch	Yes
Secretary	Home2 Suites	Lisa Wargo	Yes
Treasurer	Red Lion Hotel	Lanina Peters	Yes
Officer-at-Large	Thunderbird Lodge	Jay Patel	No
Director	TownePlace Suites	Rhonda Hanson	Yes
Director	Sheraton Redding	Lindsay Myers	Yes
Director	Hampton Inn & Suites	Bonnie Larabee	Yes
Director	SureStay Plus Redding	Bobby Patel	Yes
Director	Best Western Plus Twin View	Peter Patel	Yes
Director	American Modern Hotel	Alex Patel	No
Director	Fairfield Inn & Suites	Hassan Fallah	No
Director	Holiday Inn	James Vereb	Yes
Guest	Redding Chamber of Commerce	Todd Jones	Yes
Guest	Visit Redding	Danny Orloff	Yes

3. **Introductions of Board Directors and Guests:** The Chair asked each director and guest to introduce themselves.
    a. Guests: *Danny Orloff (Visit Redding), Todd Jones (Redding Chamber of Commerce)*

4. **Presentations & Organizational Updates**

    a. **CEO Report:**
        i. Jennifer Johnston provided updates about CalTravel Tourism Advocacy Days in Sacramento. The event offered training and tourism advocacy information. They mentioned some bills for tourism organizations to watch. The first bill was SB 690 which amends an old pre-internet law that attorneys are using to sue websites that don't meet ADA requirements. The modification would maintain ADA protections while preventing frivolous lawsuits. Lindsay Myers mentioned that at least five business owners in Redding have been subjected to lawsuits like this. The second bill CalTravel recommended watching was AB 1869. It would discourage future hotel development and CalTravel opposes it. Finally, CalTravel covered a future State-run event fund being introduced in January 2027. Jennifer is interested in seeing if Redding could tap into this in the future.
        ii. Jennifer Johnston informed the board that due to time constraints with the monthly meeting cadence, YTD Budget-to-Actual Financial Report and April 2026 RTMG Board Meeting Minutes will be presented at the June Board Meeting.
        iii. Jennifer Johnston informed the board that Prestige PEO/Teamwork HR onboarding progress & 401(k) consultation is being finalized. There will be a 401k available that won't cost RTMG anything. She will bring it to the next board meeting with more information for a vote.

        iv. Staffing Updates
            1. Jennifer Johnston updates the board on part-time administrative assistant recruitment through 02 Employment. This would take a lot of work off Jennifer, and she would appreciate the admin support.
            2. Bookkeeping interviews and financial operations update. Jennifer Johnston updated the board on bookkeeper interviews.
            3. Jennifer Johnston updates the board on CFO by Design consultation and proposal which automates the bookkeeping process and may eliminate the need for a bookkeeper.
                - Ed Rullman mentioned there's been discussion between Jennifer and board members on having an open mind about changing how we have operated in the past. With a small staff having outside help for bookkeeping makes sense and protects from liability. Bobby Patel asked if this change will cost more or less money. Ed replied we won't know until we get a proposal, but the cost will likely go up.

    b. Redding Sports Commission Update

- Tim showed the board the Redding Sports Commission website – an interim site is live now.
- Tim updated the board on the inaugural RSC Advisory Board meeting which was held May 18, 2026. He reached out to over 30 people with interests in Redding sports and gave them meeting invites. The first meeting had a good turnout. The next advisory board meeting will be August 24 at Redding Sports Park's Black Sheep restaurant.
- Tim gave an update on the IRONMAN race. IRONMAN currently has 1,300 signups from 48 states and 11 countries. We're a designated pro race now. This will upgrade our race with prize money and be a gateway for world championships. It will get a lot of global eyes on our area, attracting anywhere from 40 – 50 world class athletes to Redding. The final racecourse has been set. Over 500 volunteer positions are available. Tim mentioned local outreach such as posters and IRONMAN staff contacts to inform locals about race day logistics. Ed asked if we can have IRONMAN streetlight banners up for the first week of June. Tim said we can. Tim stated that August 14-16 will be the key busy dates for the race.

5. Public Comment for Non-agendized Items

None.

6. Discussion & Informational Items

a. Board Chair Ed Rullman will lead a discussion regarding:
   i. Potential future Civic Auditorium RFP
   ii. RTMG involvement in future marketing efforts
   iii. Partnership opportunities and organizational considerations
      - Ed says that he, Todd, and Lindsay have had several meetings with the Civic over the last three weeks, as well as talking with City Council. Someone thought the RTMG may be interested in overseeing the Civic. Ed informed them we don't have the experience to do that. However, if the board wants us to, we can look into doing it. If the board is not interested in managing the Civic we need to prepare for the possibility of it closing. Ed doesn't want the city to take money away from tourism to fund the Civic and encourages the board to come to the City Council meeting. The board agrees that the RTMG doesn't have the experience to run the Civic but does not wish to see it boarded up. The board discusses that, with the City's current financial situation, the odds of finding a new operator for the venue are low.

7. Action Items for Board Vote

a. Employee Handbook & PTO Policy. Discuss and consider approving:
   i. Public comment on employee handbook and PTO policy: No public comment.
   ii. Updated Employee Handbooks as part of Prestige PEO onboarding

1. California Employee Handbook
2. Oregon Employee Handbook

- Jennifer explained that the old handbook was for everyone (including welcome center staff), however the new handbook is just for RTMG employees. Laurie Baker has a separate handbook since she is in Oregon. Changes include a section for current California laws and a client summary sheet for our specific organization, a phone policy that gives the option for an allowance or company phone, and the personal appearance section is less detailed.

iii. Direction regarding PTO accrual cap policy: Potential transition from existing 2x PTO accrual cap to 1.5x accrual cap.
- Jennifer explains that the standard is 1.5 times and ours is two times. The board can amend it and reduce the cap and pay out anyone who is over or leave it as is. Ed recommends keeping existing staff grandfathered into the current system and new staff at 1.5.
- Bobby Motions to approve the handbook and PTO policy, Lindsay seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

b. RTMG Organizational Website Presence
   i. Establish a basic online presence for Redding Tourism Marketing Group at reddingtourismmarketinggroup.com
   ii. Create a public-facing organizational landing page including mission, board information, meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and public documents
   iii. Authorize staff to obtain quotes and move forward with development recommendations
   - Jennifer wanted to run the idea of creating a basic landing page or website with required public board documents by the board. Clarifies to the board that this will save money with the elimination of the Choose Redding site.
   - James Vereb: Motions to approve organization of website, Ryan Rydalch seconded.
   - Ed Rullman said that the only thing we'll need to be aware of is that, if the City takes tourism money away from the Chamber, the RTMG may need to absorb Danny into our organization.
   - Board Vote: All in favor, motion passes.

c. Cornucopia Advertising Agreement. Consider continued advertising partnership with Cornucopia Advertising for FY 2026-2027, including:
   i. Redding Regional Airport advertising
   ii. Granzella's video and brochure wall
   iii. Public comment on Cornucopia Agreement: No public comment.
   - Jennifer explained that the contract for the Granzella's display and Redding Airport screens is $6,800 for the year. She is open to the board's input.
   - Lanina Peters motioned to discuss, Bobby Patel seconded.
   - The board discussed the pros and cons of billboard advertising and liked the idea of keeping the Granzella's display but dropping the airport screens.

- James Vereb motioned to modify the Cornucopia contract to drop the Redding Airport and keep the Granzellas display with the caveat we can modify the screens monthly, Bobby Patel seconded.
- Lanina Peters would like to keep the airport screens.
- Board Vote: 9 in favor, Lanina opposed, motion carried.
- Bobby Patel mentioned the airport screens can be brought back before the board if Cornucopia gives us a better offer.

8. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

a. Potential Redding Civic Auditorium RFP
b. Potential better offer for the airport screens.

9. Adjournment

Lindsay: Motions to adjourn
Ryan: Seconds
All in favor, motion passes

The next RMTG Board Meeting is planned for June 16, 2026. Location: Best Western Plus Hilltop.