

**MINUTES DRAFT, APPROVED May 27, 2025**

**Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting March 25, 2025**

**8:30 - 10:00 AM**

**Hudson Coastal Raw Bar and Grill, [11811 W Market PI, Fulton, MD 20759](#)**

11 of 20 voting members are required for a quorum. P = present, E = Excused Absence, A = Absent

<b>Term Ends EOFY</b>		<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Present</b>
non-voting		Katie	Fry Hester	E
non-voting		Dan	Burns	P
non-voting		Terry	Hasseltine	P
non-voting		Kathy	Johnson	P
non-voting		Mike	Milani	A
non-voting		Sharron	Christiansen	P
non-voting		Felix	Fachine	P
<b>FY26 (2nd)</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Tricia</b>	<b>Hudson</b>	P
<b>FY26 (1st)</b>	<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Jayquin</b>	<b>Bella</b>	E
<b>FY25 (2nd)</b>	<b>Past President</b>	<b>Yolande</b>	<b>Lacan</b>	P
<b>FY26 (2nd)</b>	<b>Treasurer/Secretary</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>Starke</b>	P
<b>FY28 (special)</b>	<b>Nominating Chair</b>	<b>Martha</b>	<b>Clark</b>	P
<b>FY28 (special)</b>	<b>Exec. Board</b>	<b>Chuck</b>	<b>Chandler</b>	P
<b>FY26 (1st)</b>	<b>Exec. Board</b>	<b>Vince</b>	<b>Culotta</b>	E
<b>FY25 (1st)</b>	<b>Exec. Board</b>	<b>Steve</b>	<b>Carne</b>	P
<b>FY25 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Grace</b>	<b>Anastasiadis</b>	E
<b>FY28 (2nd)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Margaret</b>	<b>Barry</b>	E
<b>FY25 (2nd)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Nina</b>	<b>Basu</b>	P
<b>FY25 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Mae</b>	<b>Beale</b>	E
<b>FY28 (2nd)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Cheryl</b>	<b>Clemens-Everidge</b>	E
<b>FY25 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Phillip</b>	<b>Dodge</b>	P
<b>FY26 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Adam</b>	<b>Winer</b>	P
<b>FY28 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Dave</b>	<b>Simmons</b>	P
<b>FY26 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Nicole</b>	<b>Motsay</b>	P
<b>FY28 (2nd)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Soo</b>	<b>Park</b>	P
<b>FY26 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Rod</b>	<b>Vese</b>	P
<b>FY28 (1st)</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Donna</b>	<b>Wecker</b>	E

**Staff in attendance:**

Amanda Hof  
Alex Sullivan  
Adam Workman  
Denisa Smith  
Kaelynn Ball  
Calli Ivester

## **AGENDA**

### **Call to Order** (Tricia)

8:41 am

### **Host Greeting** (Hudson Coastal Raw Bar and Grill)

### **Special FY26 County Budget Session Update**

(Felix Fachine, Deputy Chief of Staff to Howard County Executive Calvin Ball)

- 11 percent are federal employees in HoCo
- 11 percent of federal contractors as well
- State level - deficit - 8M budget cost into the county budget
- Tourism is somewhat insulated because it receives a dedicated hotel tax which
- Want to keep an eye on businesses out of concern that reduction in federal workforce and uncertainty in the economy could impact them
- Maintain services on the county level and do not raise taxes on anything
- April 14th - operating budget release

What are the cuts from the State:

- MD State dept of taxation - 90%
- Teacher pension liabilities - county carries that - 50% of that will be passed on to the county

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

- January (VOTE)

<i>Motion to approve January minutes as presented</i>	Adam Winer
<i>Second</i>	Martha Clark

All in favor: **Yes** ▾

Motion **Passed** ▾

### **Financials** (Jim/Amanda)

- February Financials (VOTE)

<i>Motion to approve February financials as presented</i>	Chuck Chandler
<i>Second</i>	Martha Clark

All in favor: **Yes** ▾

Motion **Passed** ▾

Jim suggested moving money to the investment account. Amanda advised we have some big bills coming in and can monitor and transfer if there are sufficient funds to do so.

- FY24 Audit Update / Board will need to approve 990
- Accounting Update (Shane C. Lease, CEO, SCL Consulting)
  - Transition to SCL Consulting is almost complete and going smoothly
  - Will work to consolidate GL lines, alot were created that are not necessary

### **Old Business**

- HB1523: HoCo Room Tax Increase ask update
  - It's alive and moving and waiting for the final approvals - it is most likely to pass
  - Jim: suggested making a phone call to move this along because of all the noise about taxes
  - Yolande mentioned a special session, which normally focuses on ongoing issues
  - Senate hearing is this Thursday on budget and tax, Amanda will testify in favor of HB1523
  - Trish: We will need to educate council members about the bill in advance of a local bill
- Council bill 15 - prohibiting hourly room rentals - hearing on **Apr 7, 2025** , this could impact hotels with day rates for business travelers. HCTC not taking a position
- Tourism Day Briefing
  - Positive feedback
  - Legislators very engaging
- Board Member Nominations for FY26
  - Bridgette Sloane
  - Brian Gaylor
  - Ann Bennett - declined
  - Looking for onboarding 3 to 4 new members

### **New Business**

- FY24 990 (VOTE)

<i>Motion to approve FY24 990 as presented</i>	Martha Clark
<i>Second</i>	Phillip Dodge

All in favor: **Yes** ▾

Motion **Passed** ▾

### **Departmental Updates**

- Executive Director
- Sales & Membership
- Visitor Services

### **Task Force Statuses**

- Community Relations Plan
- Ambassador Program
- Welcome Center Renovation
- Employee Wellness Program & Inclusivity Statement
- Employee Handbook

### **Next Board Meeting(s)**

- Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 8:30 - 10:00 AM, Location TBD  
(slight chance Amanda will request the Tuesday before if there is a conflict with her son's graduation)

Adjourn: 10:13 am