

**RECORD OF MINUTES  
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017  
9:00 A.M.  
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MANTEO, NC 27954**

**ATTENDING:** Susie Walters, Chair; Leo Holland, Vice Chair; Tonia Cohen, Secretary; Stuart Pack, Treasurer; Ervin Bateman, Assistant Treasurer; George Banks III, Myra Ladd-Bone, Bambos Charalambous, Mike Hogan, Wally Overman, Pat Weston, Martha Wickre, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Nancy Caviness

**STAFF:**

Lee Nettles, Executive Director  
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist  
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager  
Aaron Tuell, Public Relations Manager

**OTHERS:** Mark Dowdle, Deputy Superintendent, Outer Banks Group, National Park Service; Robert Rosenberg; Ralph Buxton and John Griffin, Chicamacomico Historical Association; and Dan Lewis, Outer Banks Restaurant Association.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Board then recited the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Holland moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Wickre moved to approve the November 16, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously [The agenda listed the October minutes but the Board was voting on, and approved, the November 16, 2017 minutes].

Mr. Overman moved to approve the amended minutes from August and October 2017. Ms. Ladd Bone seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously [an address was listed incorrectly and has been corrected].

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mark Dowdle reviewed: visitation on the National Seashore, events held December 17<sup>th</sup> celebrating the First Flight, upcoming "Fee Free" days in 2018, and improvements to beach accesses and Oregon Inlet Comfort Station.

Dan Lewis thanked the Board for their continued support of the Restaurant Association, and stated that the Association felt the infrastructure costs for using The Soundside were too high and would be moving the Wings & BBQ Showdown to The Pointe in Currituck County. The Board/Bureau would retain title sponsorship of the event, even though it was in Currituck County. He also noted tickets sales, struggles with labor and affordable housing, and potential advertising methods for Taste of the Beach.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Board reviewed the request from Chicamacomico. Mr. Bateman moved to award a Natural, Historic and Cultural Grant to Chicamacomico Historical Association in the amount of \$139,904.45 for roof rehabilitation of the 1911 Station, restrooms for site, and parking lot improvements. Ms. Weston seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair, and Board members, thanked the outgoing Board members for their service to the Board. Lee Nettles thanked the Chair for her service to the Board.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT:** Mr. Pack reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2017-2018 are up 3.85% over 2016-2017 actual receipts.

Mr. Overman moved to return the unused funds designated for Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet dredging as follows: \$100,000 to Infrastructure; \$650,000 to GOSPL; and \$250,000 to Short Term Unappropriated. Ms. Ladd-Bone seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bateman moved, beginning January 1, 2018 and through the time a new Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Chair are elected at the January Board meeting or January 31, 2018, whichever occurs first, the checks will be signed by the Finance Officer and the Deputy Finance Officer and a copy of the check register will be given to a member of the current Steering Committee and signed by that person. Mr. Holland seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES:** Lee Nettles discussed the Established Event Grant awarded to the Outer Banks Restaurant Association (Restaurant Association) and the title sponsorship of the BBQ & Wing Showdown. Both Lee Nettles and Legal Counsel noted that the grant guidelines and applications state that events must be held in Dare County. Lee Nettles discussed options to resolve the problem; either by reducing the award by the amount of the expenses of the Showdown or dedicate the original awarded amount to the Dare County Taste of the Beach programs and switch title sponsorship to the Grand Tasting.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the options. Most Board members expressed concern with using Dare County tax monies to fund an event held outside of Dare County. Mr. Bateman suggested lowering the award amount and having the Restaurant Association ask Currituck County to help fund the portion held in Currituck. Other Board members noted that they understood the reasoning for moving the event but did not feel that the Board should fund an event held outside of Dare County.

Mr. Bateman moved to amend the awarded amount to \$15,000; that advertising specifically for the BBQ & Wing Showdown must not include the Board/Bureau logo; and that the Board/Bureau would be the Title Sponsor for the Grand Tasting. Mr. Pack seconded. The motion carried 12 for and Chair Walters against.

The Chair state that the record reflect that she was not opposed to the Restaurant Association or the event but the way the matter was handled. Mr. Overman suggested that the Grants Committee consider language for grants that if an event is changed from the original request, that the grant is voided and the organizers start over. Lee Nettles and Legal Counsel noted that the guidelines state something similar but the language could be re-stated.

Ms. Wickre voted to terminate the third year of the Established Event Developer Grant awarded to the Restaurant Association and to have them apply for an Event Grant during the next window (for the Event Grant). Ms. Cohen seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Weston asked if the Restaurant Association would still be able to apply for grants for events in Dare County. Lee Nettles noted that they would still be able to apply for the Event Grant for Dare County events.

Legal Notice noted that the changes to the award were due to changes in the event, per item four of the grant contract.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business before the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business before the Board.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Holland noted that he attended the Festivus race. Mr. Overman and Ms. Weston thanked the outgoing Board members. Ms. Wickre reminded the Board of the New Year's Eve event. The Chair noted the letters (attachment A) from grant recipients.

**CLOSED SESSION(S):** Mr. Charalambous moved to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(5)(i) to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price or other material terms of a contract, or proposed contract, for the acquisition of real properties located at 6813 South Croatan Highway, Nags Head, NC, for the purpose of use as potential overflow parking and supplemental utility for the Soundside Event Site. Mr. Banks seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting entered closed session at 10:03 a.m.

The open session meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m. Legal Counsel noted there was nothing to report from the Closed Session.

Lee Nettles noted that the Dare County Board of Commissioners had given the Tourism Board their consent to move forward with the purchase of the South Beach Grill Property. An inspection of the property, per the Board's request, had been completed. The building does have issues and while it could be used for storage for a year or so, it would be better to demolish it. The Board discussed if any additional steps needed to be taken. Mr. Holland moved to close on the South Beach Grill property. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a five-minute break. The meeting resumed at 10:35 a.m.

Mr. Holland moved to enter closed session NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (5) (ii) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

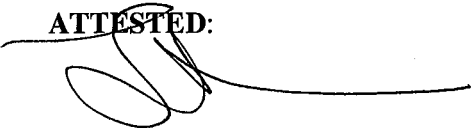
The meeting entered closed session at 10:37 a.m. The open session meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m. Legal Counsel noted there was nothing to report from the Closed Session.

**SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Thursday, January 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Offices, Manteo, NC.

Mr. Holland moved to adjourn. Ms. Wickre seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**ATTESTED:**

  
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Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board