

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018**

9:00 A.M.

**OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING: George Banks, III, Myra Ladd-Bone, Nancy Caviness, Bambos Charalambous, Tonia Cohen, Mike Hogan, Chris Nason, Wally Overman, Bobby Owens, David Pergerson, Jeff Pruitt, Pat Weston, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Webb Fuller

STAFF:

Lee Nettles, Executive Director
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration
Lorrie Love, Tourism Sales and Events Manager
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist

OTHERS: Philip Ruckle, *The Coastland Times*; John Griffin, Chicamacomico Historical Association; Becky Huff, Tax Collector, and Takeyia Berry, Occupancy Collections, Dare County Tax Department.

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

OPENING: The Clerk swore in the following Dare County Tourism Board Appointees:

George Banks, III, Member at Large	Chris Nason, Town of Southern Shores
Bambos Charalambous, Dare County Restaurant Association	Jeff Pruitt, Town of Kitty Hawk
Wally Overman, Dare County Commissioners	Mike Hogan, Town of Kill Devil Hills
David Pergerson, Outer Banks Association of REALTORS®	Bobby Owens, Town of Manteo

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel, presented the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of candidates, as follows:

- Chair: Myra Ladd-Bone
- Vice-Chair: Wally Overman
- Secretary: Tonia Cohen
- Treasurer: Pat Weston
- Assistant Treasurer: Bambos Charalambous

Legal Counsel then called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. Hearing none, nominations were closed.

Ms. Caviness moved to approve the slate as presented. Mr. Hogan seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel then turned the meeting over to the Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Weston moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Cohen seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Caviness moved to approve the December 21, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Hogan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made at this time.

PRESENTATIONS: John Griffin reviewed the event plans for the Centennial of the *Mirlo* Rescue at Chicamacomico in August 2018 and progress on work being done on the buildings and the site at Chicamacomico. (attachment A).

Becky Huff and Takeyia Berry reviewed how occupancy taxes are collected through rental agencies, AirBnB, VRBO, and Online Travel Companies (OTC). Becky Huff noted the difficulties encountered when trying to identify rental properties on AirBnB or VRBO, even Craigslist, sites. She also noted that she understood that the Board would like to be able to track the growth of rentals done outside of a rental company, she was limited in the information she could give out by law. She noted that she will work to create a report providing the information the Board was looking for without running afoul of the law.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Diane Bognich noted that the meals and occupancy receipts had still not been received but would send out the financial reports when she had those numbers. Both Lee Nettles and Diane Bognich noted that this was a very unusual situation.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles reviewed:

- Offshore drilling. He noted past resolutions and letters of opposition from the Board. He also reviewed the graphs showing the economic impact of drilling versus tourism (attachment B). He noted that he was invited to speak with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Surfrider Foundation in Washington DC on February 15. Mr. Overman moved to: continue the Board's opposition to offshore drilling; have Lee Nettles speak at the BOEM meeting on February 15; and to submit the letter from 2017, with updated numbers, during BOEM's public comment. Mr. Hogan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. A few Board members spoke about the stance their respective boards/organizations were taking on the subject.
- Inquiry, fulfillment, and visitation numbers.

Lee Nettles noted that Aaron Tuell was attending the International Media Marketplace and discussed how public relations cultivated relationships with travel writers and editors.

Lorrie Love reviewed the familiarization (FAM) tour with the American Bus Association; upcoming events at the Soundside; and the Tourism Summit.

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

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: There were no Board member comments.

SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: The Board set their meeting schedule for the third Thursday of the month.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC.

Mr. Charalambous moved to adjourn. Ms. Weston seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board