

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING: Wally Overman, Chair; Myra Ladd-Bone, Vice Chair; Pat Weston, Treasurer; Bambos Charalambous, Assistant Treasurer; Mike Hogan, Secretary; George Banks, III, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Chris Nason, Bobby Owens, David Pergerson, Jeff Pruitt, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Chuck Burdick

STAFF:

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

OTHERS: Joy Greenwood, Superintendent, Jockey's Ridge State Park; Dave Hallac, Superintendent, and Michael Barber, Public Relations; Outer Banks Group, National Park Service.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Charalambous moved to approve the January 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Hogan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Superintendent Hallac noted the strong visitation at the parks in the Outer Banks group in 2018. He then discussed the Commercial Use Authorization, which goes into effect in October 2019. Any bus operator bringing tour groups to any National Park will be required to obtain a \$300 yearly permit, per park. In addition, if a park charges an entrance fee, the group members will need to pay the entrance fee. If there is no entrance fee, each member will pay \$5.00. However, if a school contacts the National Park Service, they would be eligible for an educational exemption from the permit. Sites located within the National Park boundaries but not physically on National Park Land are exempt from this policy (for example, Chicamacomico); if they are located on both land and within the boundaries, they must abide by the policy (for example, Graveyard of the Atlantic). Ms. Chisholm noted that additional expense would discourage group tours from visiting the Outer Banks or the National Parks, and perhaps both. The Board discussed how this fee would be enforced, how and where the fees will be collected, if the fees would be used locally, and how other parks are dealing with this matter. Staff will continue to work the National Park Service on this issue.

PRESENTATION: Jockey's Ridge State Park Superintendent Joy Greenwood made a presentation about the park (on file).

Ms. Weston moved to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(5) 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 (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property located at 6714 and 6716 S Croatan Hwy, Nags Head, NC 27959 and owned by On Trading Company and Overrun II, LLC, by purchase, option, exchange, or lease as expansion of parking and other use for The Soundside Event Site. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting entered closed session at 9:45 a.m.

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

The meeting resumed at 10:15 a.m. Legal Counsel noted there was no final action taken to report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Ms. Weston reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2018-2019 are up 2.87% over 2017-2018 actual receipts. A few Board members asked if there was a way to plot the meals and occupancy totals via graphs. Mr. Nettles responded there was and would present a graph at the next meeting.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles:

- Attendance at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina and NCTIA Legislative Day
- A request for a letter of support from Currituck County for the Mid-Currituck Bridge. The Board agreed Lee Nettles could submit a letter on behalf of the Board/Bureau.
- The event site reservation for the Fun Fair put on by the Children & Youth Partnership (CYP). CYP is requesting to reserve the site June 10-17 (the Fair would run June 13-16).

In 2018, the Board established a policy that events held between June 15 and September 7 would need to be self-contained on the site. In light of this, staff asked CYP to adjust the dates for the fair, which CYP was unable to do because of an event held the week prior. The Board discussed the issue at length, noting that the majority of the event feel outside of the "self-contained event" window. Following discussion, Mr. Pergerson moved to grant a Children & Youth Partnership an exception to the policy in 2019 and directed staff to write a letter noting this was a one-year exception and to encourage CYP to hold the Fun Fair before June 15 in the future. Mr. Fuller seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Aaron Tuell reviewed the news coverage of the community day held for the new bridge over Oregon Inlet. The story was carried on CNN.

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

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: The Chair asked if there was any interest among the Board members in meeting with the tourism departments/commissioners for Currituck and Hyde County. Both Mr. Pergerson and Mr. Fuller were interested.

SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC.

Mr. Pergerson moved to adjourn. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board