

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019**

9:00 A.M.

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

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

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Myra Ladd-Bone, Vice Chair.

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: Larry Grubbs and Sandy Sanderson, Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station; Bill Coleman, The Lost Colony; and Mary Helen Goodloe Murphy, *The Coastland Times*.

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: Mr. Fuller moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Weston moved to approve the April 25, 2019, meeting minutes. Mr. Hogan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bill Coleman thanked the Board for holding the Tourism Summit at The Lost Colony and invited them to opening night at the Colony on May 31. Larry Grubbs noted that the beach apparatus drills would begin May 30 and run each Thursday during the summer.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT: Lee Nettles updated the Board on progress with the Dairy Queen/Putt Putt course. Staff is working on a new lease agreement with the tenant as they wish to sell light snacks (granola bars for example) and water and are the only tenants in the building using the utilities. Staff is also updating the rental rates at the event site to help offset fees associated with having WIFI at the site.

The putt-putt course needs to either be demolished or fenced off for safety reasons as it is not being used. The Board discussed various options for the course. Mr. Pergerson moved to empower staff to mitigate the hazards at the course and removal of debris if costs were \$30,000 or under. Mr. Pruitt seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020: At 9:15 Mr. Fuller moved to open the Public Hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget. Mr. Charalambous seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The Chair called for any comments. None were made. Mr. Fuller moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Weston seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The hearing closed at 9:16 a.m.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED: Lee Nettles referenced a letter from Ralph Buxton (attachment A) regarding the impact that dissolving the Natural, Cultural, Historic Grant Line would have on smaller non-profits. Steering Committee had discussed this issue and Staff came up with an outline for the Tourism Impact Grant (attachment B), that would replace both the Natural, Cultural, Historic and Short-Term Restricted Fund grants. The Board discussed the proposed Tourism Impact Grant. Mr. Charalambous moved to adopt the proposed Tourism Impact Grant. Mr. Pruitt seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Ms. Weston reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2018-2019 are up 3.18% over 2017-2018 actual receipts.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles reviewed:

- Thanked staff for their hard work at the 7th Annual Tourism Summit
- A meeting with all the ad agencies-digital, social, and creative
- Upcoming events
- Internet, Inquiry, Fulfillment and Visitation numbers

Lorrie Love reviewed upcoming events at The Soundside and her recent group sales familiarization tours. Lee Nettles reported that Aaron Tuell was out of office, hosting a familiarization tour.

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

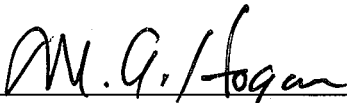
NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business to come before the Board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: There were no Board member comments.

SET DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC.

Hearing no further business before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board

RALPH BUXTON

252-207-5810 ralphbuxton@gmail.com 448 W., Villa Dunes Dr. Nags Head, NC. 27959

Mr. Wally Overman
Chairman
and
Dare County Tourism Board

Dear Mr. Overman and Board,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the upcoming public hearing on the 2019 - 2019 Budget, but I would like to express my concern regarding the Board's elimination of the Natural Historic and Cultural Resources Grant Program as proposed in the budget.

As I understand, non profits will now have to compete for funds with tax supported government entities and will also have to match 50% of the total funds being sought. This is unfair since non-profits do not have the ability to raise money through taxes unlike government entities, and the sources for matching non profit grants and donations are very limited here in Dare County.

As an example, I was on the Chicamacomico Board of Directors for the past five years, a period during which major rehabilitation and facility improvement was completed on Chicamacomico Life Saving Station complex. It goes without saying that this would not have been possible without the major support received from the Dare County Tourism Board through the Natural Historic and Cultural Resources Grant Program. As with other non profits, membership dues and donations simply do not provide enough funding to undertake major infrastructure programs that are essential to maintaining the natural, historic, and cultural heritage of our county. Requiring a 50% match will make it much more difficult for Dare County non profits to pursue their important missions.

I urge you to reinstate the Natural Historic and Cultural Resources Grant Program. It has served Dare County well for the past 20+ years.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Buxton

**Restricted Fund Grant Discussion
May 16, 2019**

PREVIOUS

	Program or Service Needed Due to the Impact of Tourism	Dare Govt Eligible	Dare Non-Profits Eligible	Paid on Reimbursement	Match Required	Set Application Window
Short-Term Restricted	*	*	*	*	*	*
Natural Cultural Historic	*	*	*	*		

Other than Match and Application Window, types of projects able to be funded were comparable

PROPOSED - *Tourism Impact Grant*

- One grant instead of two - rename as Tourism Impact Grant
- One application window (Sep 1st - Sep 30th)
- Base match requirement on the size of the grant amount requested
- Reimbursement will require proof of applicant's grant expenditures and match expenditures
- One grant per project per Fiscal Year

Grant Amount Requested	Match Required
Below \$50,000	None
\$50,000 - \$125,000	Applicant to provide match of at least 25%
Above \$125,000	Applicant to provide match of at least 50%

Rationale

- * Stretches available resources (ability to fund more projects)
- * Encourages realistic requests
- * Treats all eligible applicants the same, i.e., no differentiation between gov't and non-profit

Note: Event grants are funded within the General Fund, not the Restricted Fund, and are therefore not affected by the changes described here
