

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING:

In-Person: Jeff Pruitt, Chair; Ervin Bateman, Treasurer; Monica Thibodeau, Assistant Treasurer; Webb Fuller, Secretary; Bambos Charalambous, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

Via GoToMeeting: Jamie Chisholm.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Tim Cafferty, Vice-Chair; Doug Brindley, and Hatteras At Large member

STAFF (in person):

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

OTHERS ATTENDING:

In Person: Dave Hallac, Superintendent, Outer Banks Group, National Park Service, and Philip Ruckle, *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. Holland moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Charalambous. There was no discussion.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Thibodeau moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021 and the July 15, 2021, meetings. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Superintendent Hallac reviewed visitation at the area NPS sites, and progress on the fishing pier on the southern terminus of the Bonner Bridge, Oregon Inlet Fishing Center improvements, and a kayak launch at Oregon Inlet.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Mr. Bateman reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2020-2021 are up 28.14% compared to 2019-2020 actual receipts.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles updated the Board on:

- Event Center Plans. Lee Nettles went before the Dare County Commissioners and received their support (via a resolution) for an Event Center.
- Partnership with OBX Forever to film an excavation of a sea turtle nest.
- New ad campaign that will begin after Labor Day.

Lorrie Love reported on the Group and Meeting markets, which are slowly returning; upcoming events; and the 2022 Travel Guide.

On behalf of Aaron Tuell, Lee Nettles noted media efforts.

OLD BUSINESS: Lee Nettles reviewed the discussion and recommendation from the Steering Committee to withdraw the application for modification of the Town of Nags Head Special Use Permit for the event site. Mr. Charalambous moved to withdraw the special use permit application. Second by Mr. Holland. There was no discussion.

Yes: Ervin Bateman, Bambos Charalambous, Jamie Chisholm, Webb Fuller, Leo Holland, Ivy Ingram, Karen Loopman-Davis, Bobby Owens, Jeff Pruitt, and Monica Thibodeau.

No: None. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Board Members noted and commented on the recent sustainable tourism presentation held at Jennette's Pier. Limited workforce, affordable housing, and traffic issues were highlighted, and members noted that these were issues they were all facing. Lee Nettles noted that most tourism destinations consistently face the same issues, especially during a global pandemic.

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC (virtual and in-person options available).

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Board. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

ATTESTED:



Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board