

**RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
9:00 A.M.
OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MANTEO, NC 27954**

ATTENDING:

Mark Ballog, Mark Batenic, Tod Clissold, Tonia Cohen, Terry Gray, John Head, Richard Hess, David Hines, Tess Judge, Dennis Robinson, Monica Thibodeau, and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Wally Overman and Mike Siers.

STAFF:

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

OTHERS ATTENDING: None.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. The Board then recited the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

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

Mark Ballog, Outer Banks Restaurant Association
Mark Batenic, Town of Southern Shores
Terry Gray, Town of Kill Devil Hills
John Head, Outer Banks Association of REALTORS®
David Hines, Town of Kitty Hawk
Tess Judge, Member at Large

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel, presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Chair, Monica Thibodeau. Legal Counsel called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Mr. Batenic moved to elect Monica Thibodeau as Chairman. Second by Mr. Hess. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Legal Counsel then turned the meeting over to the Chair.

The Chair presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Vice Chair, David Hines and called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Chair closed nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

The Chair presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Treasurer, Tod Clissold and called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Chair closed nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued):

The Chair presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Assistant Treasurer, Dennis Robinson and called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Chair closed nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

The Chair presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Secretary, Tonia Cohen and called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Chair closed nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hess moved to approve the agenda. Second by Mr. Gray. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Batenic moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 14, 2023 meeting. Second by Mr. Hess. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments made. No written comments were received.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT: Diane Bognich reviewed the meals and occupancy receipts received. Receipts for fiscal year 2023-2024 were up 2.31 % compared to 2022-2023 actual receipts. Diane Bognich noted that the Adventure Park chose to renew their lease for five years.

OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU UPDATES: Lee Nettles:

- Gave a remembrance for Bobby Owens
- Noted the fire training burn at the former Pamlico Jacks, and clean up post burn
- Temporary use of South Beach Grill parking area by the Town of Nags Head public works
- Marketing dashboard and visitation statistics. Lee Nettles also noted the beginning stages of a website audit and usability study.
- VisitNC Travel and Tourism Conference in March, in Greenville, NC.

On behalf of Jeff Schwartzenberg, Lee Nettles noted the upcoming Long Range Tourism Management Plan Special Committee meeting on February 7, 2024 [rescheduled from January 10, 2024 due to weather], and the ongoing work with the non-profits.

Lorrie Love reviewed previous and upcoming group tradeshow. She also noted that OBXmas and the 12 Bars of Christmas were successful, and that the 2nd Annual Softshell Week would be May 13-18, 2024.

On behalf of Aaron Tuell, Lorrie Love noted an upcoming appearance on WAVY-TV 10 Morning Show in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

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 and other Board members gave tributes to Bobby Owens. Board members introduced themselves and spoke on what is happening within their towns and organizations. Mark Ballog reviewed the 2023 12 Bars of Christmas and plans for the 2024 event.

SET DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

- The Board set their meeting schedule for the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis Creech Memorial Boardroom, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Administrative Office, Manteo, NC.

The Chair asked if there was any further business before the Board. Hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

ATTESTED:

Amy S. Wood

Clerk, Dare County Tourism Board