

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE COMBINED BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, November 09, 2021

NONE

COMBINED BOARD MEETING
Bay County Tourist Development Council
Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Panama City Beach

Tuesday, November 09, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Council Room, PCB City Hall

Board Members Present:

Bailey, Steve (V-Chair)

Casto, Paul

Walsingham, Gary

Pease, Clair (Chairman)

Board Members Absent:

Phillips, Andy

Chester, Phil

Griffitts, Phillip

Patronis, Yonnie (S/T)

Wilkes, Buddy

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Pease called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Four members were present at the time of Roll Call. Mr. Rowe declared a non-quorum; no voting Action took place.

- A. Invocation
Mr. Casto gave the Invocation.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
Ms. Pease led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Approve August & September 2021 minutes

No Motion Made; Will be brought back at the next meeting.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes)

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Rowe read the Consent Agenda into the record.

- A. Acknowledge the Tourist Development Tax Collections Report

With no action by the Board, Mr. Rowe discussed the success of the collections for the month of September. Also, he discussed the American Rescue Plan federal funding coming into the state of Florida. The Cares Act also brought in funding to Florida. He said that the Indoor Sports Center and Skills Building could possibly be partially funded via these funds. He discussed the potential location of the Indoor Center as well as adding the skate park to the grant proposal. Also, he said that the location of the skate park is under consideration and is being discussed. He said J. Michael Brown is working on the grant proposal. Mr. Walsingham asked the cost of the skills building and our match cost. Mr. Rowe stated that it will be roughly 1.6-2 million dollars. Our match would be around 400,000 thousand dollars which is already in the budget in Tourism Development Projects. He said the county also has funds for the skate park. He said the skate park will be designed for competitions and will be open for public daily use.

Mr. Rowe gave an update on the progress of the Indoor Sports Center. He discussed how the center has evolved into a multi-use facility after Hurricane Michael. The center will also be an Emergency Operations Center during

and after a storm. He said with this alteration to the plans, we will be looking to get FEMA and HUD funding around 14 million dollars.

He gave a summary of how the center will be used for emergency operations, post storm business center, and other uses to restore our economy post storm. He said that during non-storm time, it will also have a shared gym with the Walsingham Academy to help extend the public resources within Bay County.

He then discussed the Navy, Tech Bridge Gulf Coast, that runs from Tallahassee to New Orleans. NSA PC can also use the center for this Tech Bridge as well as meeting space and classified briefing rooms.

He discussed the location and how that works for its purpose.

Mr. Rowe answered questions by the board. The utilities will be underground and new fiber connections to ensure its capability to stay operational during and after storms. Also discussed was the day to day management of the center, which would be done in conjunction with the current management company of the sports park, SFM.

Ms. Peace discussed the aftermath of the hurricanes and making sure this center meets the needs.

Mr. Rowe discussed how he has been working with the EOC and other emergency management centers to ensure the indoor center will be outfitted for that purpose. Mr. Bailey asked what size tournaments it can house.

Mr. Sanders said the demand for indoor sports is great. The number of tournaments is quite large and downtime can be filled with other events.

Mr. Walsingham asked if the indoor center could be added on to or enlarged in the future. Mr. Rowe stated that the stormwater area is being moved which will allow for future expansion. He said he has planned for future expansion in the initial plan. Also Mr. Rowe stated that parking is adequate as well as being able to use the school's lot when not in session. He also stated that new signage is in process and that it's the design responsibility of the St. Joe Company.

He stated that Griffiths Pkwy will ultimately end in the round a bout on Chip Seal Pkwy.

No Motion Made.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. US EDA Grant Opportunity-ARPA, Mr. Dan Rowe & Mr. J. Michael Brown

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rowe said that the push is on for upcoming events such as Beach Home for the Holidays, Beach Ball Drop, and Madi Gras. He said that a market correction from covid is expected regarding tax collection, but all efforts are being made to ensure that doesn't affect collections.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Pease asked for the board to make a list of projects to give to Mr. Rowe that can be valued for the potential use of excess cash carry forward funds. Mr. Rowe said that would be very helpful to take to the county to show the intended use of those funds and how it can improve and build our community. He said he will take the boards list of projects, discuss with each board member, put a cost to each project, then bring a recommendation back to the board at a future meeting. Ms. Pease also asked to look into paying down the sports park debt as well as having a reserve of funds for the sports park to handle future issues. She also asked for the cost of making the back four fields artificial as well as paving the road to those back fields.

She also discussed remodeling the CVB office. Mr. Rowe said that was being discussed including a large enough conference room that could host our board meetings. Mr. Casto suggested moving the visitor center and offices to a newly built property at the foot of the west bay bridge.

Ms. Pease discussed the beach access signage refurbishment. Also, she asked for funds to be in reserves for post storm emergency fund needs.

Also discussed was the additional landscape project. Mr. Rowe stated that he has an appointment with the architect and will get back with the board. He also said he was told not to touch back beach road yet as road expansion will be taking place. The gateways are the focus.

Mr. Walsingham, and the board agreed, the intersection of Chip Seal Pkwy and Back Beach Rd needs to be brought to the DOT for the future growth and increase in traffic in that area.

Mr. Casto asked if more funds for public safety can be given. Mr. Rowe stated that the maximum amount allowed by law is currently being given.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Cook, Recording Secretary