

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE COMBINED BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Approved March 11, 2025, Minutes

Mr. Walsingham Moved; Seconded by Mr. Patronis

Approved Consent Agenda

Mr. Phillips Moved; Seconded by Mr. DiBenedictis

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

09:00 a.m.

Council Room, PCB City Hall

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Jeff DiBenedictis

Clair Pease (Chairman)

Yonnie Patronis (Treasurer)

Andy Phillips

Ethan Register

Gary Walsingham

Six Members Present at the time of Roll Call.

Mr. Reggie Johns arrived after roll call at 9:23am.

Mr. Mike Jarman and Mr. Mike Jansen were absent.

- A. Invocation
None
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
Ms. Pease
- C. Approve March 11, 2025, Minutes (CVB/TDC)
Mr. Walsingham Moved; Seconded by Mr. Patronis to approve
Motion passed unanimously with Six Members present.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes)
None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve 2025 Turtle Watch & Leave No Trace Contracts (TDC)

B. Approve and recommend to the Bay County Board of County Commissioners to reimburse the Bay County Sheriff's Office for certain public safety expenditures related to increased tourism on Panama City Beach (TDC)

Mr. Rowe read the consent agenda into the record and asked for a vote to approve.

Mr. Phillips Moved; Seconded by Mr. DiBenedictis to approve
Motion passed unanimously with Six Members present.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Mexico Beach Renouishment Project, Ms. Kimberly Shoaf

Ms. Shoaf gave a recap of the project. She reviewed the grant process that began years before hurricane Michael, which brought in some sand but was destroyed after the hurricane. Afterwards, twenty-seven million dollars in grant funds were secured with the help of Lisa Armbruster and the full beach restoration project has been completed.

She thanked the board for their support during this process.

VI. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Rowe said he wanted to continue the conversation regarding parking at the sports park. He stated that there are two parts of the project; construction of the Western Region Resiliency Center, and the other; construction of the remaining indoor sports facility center project. The project was split in this manner so it would pass the FEMA benefit cost analysis profile. This would ensure that the hardening of the building would be done under FEMA. At the request of the county, the CVB was running the non-FEMA portion of the project in order to continue to demonstrate the separation of the funds known as the SABRE Center Project. As part of that, there is some vertical construction that Mr. Rowe doesn't recommend being done at this point in time, but to go ahead and get the civil work done. This will raise the elevation of where the indoor facility will be built and will also allow for moving forward with the parking project. This will add parking near the current lots, but also convert field 13 to parking. This will help with parking for the new turf fields. The intent is to move forward. He stated that they have submitted the development order to the county, and they are currently reviewing it. Then, the project can be put out for bid to alleviate the parking issues. Mr. Rowe said a vote is not required as the board has already voted at a prior meeting to approve the project. Mr. Rowe then answered questions from the board.

Mr. Phillips asked for an update on the St. Andrews School project with Destination Panama City. Mr. Rowe said that the project is ongoing. The potential for the space could include use to promote the SS United States. He also said the funds for the roof replacement have been procured and the replacement has begun. He said that there is no request for us to provide funding. The intent is that when the indoor sports facility is bonded, the two projects will be bonded together and DPC will pay their portion of that bond. Mr. Rowe stated that Ms. Vigil will be providing a proforma soon.

Mr. Phillips then asked if Mr. Rowe had heard from other counties regarding the sinking of the ship for the artificial reef. Mr. Rowe said that Walton County had a meeting and discussed the ship but didn't take a vote on the matter. He said he will be meeting with Okaloosa County as well as touring the ship in Mobile. Also, an interlocal agreement is being drafted.

Mr. Rowe also announced the opening of the beach access dedication for Edward F Hickey Park and thanked Mr. DiBenidictis for his additional support which allows the building of an observation deck to help in our Fun For All beach access campaign.

Mr. Rowe recognized Mr. Patrick Stewart and his team for an amazing job for the events, including the recent UnWineD event, which was a huge success. He also commended Mr. Stewart for working with Pier Park and the Beach Police and Sheriff's office for part of our ten percent funds allocation for public safety to be used for the purchase and installation of FLOCK cameras in Pier Park. This project has been in process for months. These cameras can read license plates and identify problems such as people who have active warrants who may cause problems. They also feed into the Sheriff's camera system, BAYROC, which greatly helps with public safety.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Pease stated that spring break this year was a great strain on our law enforcement. She said it's time to discuss the policies we have regarding the businesses who hold events that promote potential bad behavior. She asked the board for their thoughts on having Mr. Rowe and the staff look at our policies and procedures. Board members agreed and said that it appears to be non-college people causing the problems as well as some businesses holding events that promote this kind of crowd. Ms. Pease said that she would like to ensure that those businesses aren't allowed to be CVB partners. Mr. Phillips discussed the Sheriff's frustration as he publicly asked businesses to stop these events. The board agreed to ask Mr. Rowe and his staff to review policy and make changes to not promote these businesses. Mr. Rowe said that he will look at our policy and bring that back to the board. Mr. Patronis stated that it appears to be the same businesses having these events.

Mr. Rowe stated that he has the boards direction.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Cook, Recording Secretary