



**ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**  
**May13, 2024, 12:00PM**  
**Bloom Coworking/Zoom**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Joe Bovee, Carley Brierre, Dr. Valerie Burge-Hall, Don Comer, Joe Donnelly, Blair Durham, Marko Frigelj, Stephen Genthner, Max Greenhood, Brad Hunter, Ryan Kenrick, Shane Knisley, Stephen Korving, Ross Morgan, Peggy Murphy, Fred Pasquine, Melissa Ramsey, Cameron Robinett, Joel Rubin, Chris Shelton, Dr. Hope Sinclair, Will Taylor, Rob Wilber, Brian Donahue, Shannon Glover, Peter Kopacz, Steven Carter

**Staff:** Michelle Wren, Shina Madison

**I. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by the President.

**II. Welcome New Members**

**Max Greenhood**

Cameron Robinett, Chief Investment Officer of Cock Island Capital, Blair Durham, Executive Director/Founder BlackBrand, Cameron Hunter, Executive Director, Portsmouth Museums Foundation

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the minutes from April 8, 2024. Motion carried.

**IV. Executive Committee Introductions & Reports**

**Max Greenhood, President** 4th generation business owner in Portsmouth Rocket Bike

**Michelle Wren, Executive Director** Moved to Portsmouth from Richmond in 1994.

**Fred Pasquine, Vice President** Moved to Portsmouth from Cincinnati with family in 2007. Now President at Fairlead since 2017.

**Ryan Kenrick, Chair Nominating Committee** Partner at Lee Born and raised in Portsmouth. Wife is Portsmouth native have 3 children

**Don Comer Lefcoe-** Don Comer Ford 30yrs has served on Portsmouth Partnership several years and now serves as Lefcoe Chair.

**Will Taylor-** Chic Fil-A Fredrick Blvd. From Charlottesville moved here October 2020

**Dr. Hope Sinclair, Secretary of** Communities in schools, lived in Portsmouth for 11 years.

**Stephen Korving – Korving & Co Financial Planning**

**Carley Brierre Elizabeth River Crossings, Co-Chair of Transportation Committee** has worked in several cities here in in Hampton roads and Richmond.

**Joseph Donnelly-** came to to area to work on the rail roads retired 2006 and became involved in real estate and served on Portsmouth partnership since 1999.

**Peggy Murphy** -board member since 1998 Family business for 28 years. Now part of Towne Bank. Has set on several seats for the board. Currently lives in Olde Town.

**Melissa Ramsey**-Director of Community Relations, Rivers Casino been in Hampton Roads for 8 years. Been part of the partnership of the partnership since 2022. 2023 Lefcoe Alum

**Chris Shelton Treasurer,** CURE Coffeehouse, has been living in Portsmouth for 10years.

**Legislative Update-** Senator Louis Lucas was not present.

**City of Portsmouth-** Mayor Shannon Glover applauded the board on its dedication to the support of the Partnership and its initiatives here in Portsmouth. He mentions Portsmouth becoming the number one destination #1 for tourists with our Innovation District, and Entertainment District, as well as Developing the parcel of land on the waterfront by tearing down the jail. He also mentions the success of the Wall Street Mural Arts Festival on Hatton St. Mayor shared his support of the new City Manager Steven Carter and looks forward to planning a gathering to welcome him. He then shared about the State of the City and the Blue Economy.

**Economic Development-** Brian Donahue reported how the Blue Economy is a huge opportunity for our city. We will see a lot of ship building offshore wind happening here. Offshore wind has received some new vessels here for installations at PMT. Between May-October is the monopiles installation period. The Orion left port recently. This project will continue into 2025 and 2026. Looking at redeveloping the city's waterfront at portside. The Crawford bay site is looking to add multifamily housing, add a hotel, retail, and small offices. They are putting out a solicitation bid this year for this project. 545 Washington st apartments is looking to open in June. A question was asked regard the update on the City Park project, an answer will be given at the next board meeting.

May 20 how to do business with Portsmouth at TCC

May 30 Networking Event

**Commissioner Revenue Office-** No report

**PDF/Bloom-** Michelle reported for Camille. 190 current bloom members. Bloom has no office vacancies. Seeing more traffic into the building and selling our shared spaces.

176 Hours booked in conference room space for the month of April with revenue of \$1,218.75.

Bloom Market has accepted 22 vendors to date. Since opening, the market has sold 306 items totaling \$3,993.31 in revenue. All vendors have sold items, except those 2 who are special orders, our custom shoes, and stools.

We had our first meet the maker day on Saturday, this went well, especially with the PSPA Wall Street Mural festival. The market is beginning a Friday evening series this coming Friday and will be held on the third Friday of each month "bloom after Dark" Makers will attend, we are working with Post Secondary, Cure and Gosport Tavern trying to attract folks to the 700 block.

We are looking at ways to attract Farmer's Market crowd down to the 600 & 700 block on Saturdays. Fridays are much busier than Saturdays. The Market crowd will not cross through the 500 block, hoping once the renovations and construction are complete this will help. Working with Cullens to figure out how to expand the market down our way for all businesses on these two blocks.

We are currently running Surge a BlackBrand program, in Bloom. The graduation is this evening. The Uplift Program will begin in July. The applications will open on the first of June. This is a program designed for companies who are ready to accelerate their growth. We are working with Dollar Bank to bring in financial literacy programs on personal and business credit. We are also going to offer a first home buyers work-shop in conjunction with our realtors here in bloom. We have submitted congressional directed funding for 2025 for \$515,000.

**Education-** No report

**Lefcoe-** Don Commer shared about the scholarship for the LEAD 757 program. Lefcoe is not accepting applications from Lefcoe alum to represent Portsmouth.

**Maritime-** Fred shared how we will be repairing the dolly container ship that hit the Francis Key bridge. In a recent bill passed it included 3.3 Billion dollars to improve private sector ship building making submarines. We will see that funding.

**Military Affairs -** Pete Kopacz shared about the Portsmouth Naval hospitals that provide health care services here. Last month was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the buildings. The hospital is now a trauma center level 2 and can now see civilian trauma.

**OTBA-** No report

**Portsmouth Museums-** No report

**PRHA-** No report

**Transportation-** No report

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Sign up for committees – get involved in an area of interest – Let Shina know where you would like to serve.

Strategic Planning Committee – Fred Pasquine will head up this committee. He is in the planning stages and after will assemble a team to help guide the Partnership.

Hiring Committee formed for new Program / Assistant Director Position. Job has been posted. We have received many resumes and have started to conduct interview

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wilber's having their annual party Saturday 6/15 from 4:30pm-11pm – should have received email with details.

- YMCA of South Hampton roads is offering Sponsor A Teen summer program to help keep teens in a positive summer environment – Information on program will be emailed.
- Mercy Drops Golf Tournament June 7<sup>th</sup> at Bid-a-wee Cost \$100 per player. – information was emailed
- **Next Executive Meeting May 23th @ 8:00am via Zoom**
- **Next Partnership Board Meeting June 10th @ 12:00pm at Bloom with new member orientation prior at 11:00 am**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Lunch provided by Cure*

**VII. Adjournment**

**Max Greenhood**

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Shina Madison