



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
April 8, 2024, 12:00PM
Bloom Coworking
Minutes

Attendance: Joe Bovee, Carley Brierre, Don Comer, Camille Cherry, Thomas Cross, Johnny Garcia, Jay Grant, Stephen Genter, Max Greenwood, Herb Haneman, Marko Frigelj, Ryan Kenrick, Shane Knisley, Stephen Korving, Peggy Murphy, Melissa Ramsey, Dr. Angela Reddix, Kendra Robinson, Joel Rubin, Robin Schmalbach, Chris Shelton, Andy Sutter, Frankie Edmondson, Shannon Glover, Nancy Perry

Staff: Michelle Wren, Shina Madison

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by the President.

II. Member Spotlight Presentation

Kendra Robinson

Kendra Robinson is the Executive Director and founder of the Community Outreach Coalition, which provides community development services that empower individuals, youth, and families to excel in life. She shared about the impact the organization has had since its beginning in 2008. The program is aimed at helping citizens overcome low educational attainment obstacles for high school seniors and adults. An upcoming opportunity for the board to support is the College & Career Carnival on April 27 at the City Park. The way in which you can support is to volunteer, donate, or sponsor a student scholarship.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes from March 13, 2024. Motion carried.

IV. Executive Committee Introductions & Report

Legislative Update- Senator Louis Lucas was not present.

City of Portsmouth- Mayor Shannon Glover reported what the city of Portsmouth has going on. He shared that the schools have requested a 15 million budget. He also shared that there was a defer to vote on the innovation district in the last city council meeting. Mayor Glover seems hopeful that this defer will not hinder the timeline for the project and that council will soon vote to pass. Some events he shared included: - State of the City May 3rd at Rivers Casino, -April 12 Virginia Squires Honored at the Renaissance hotel 6-10p (sign-up with the Mayor for VIP tickets), - PIT April 11-14th at Churchland High School, -Filipino Fest in October. The mayor also shared that the new City Manager will start April 22nd and he hopes to have a combined meeting with them and the business community and the business leadership to establish relationship building. He ended by stating that Kity Bryant will be running for City Council.

Commissioner Office- Commissioner Frankie Edmondson briefly shared a report regarding the revenue of the city. He shared that the city saw a 47.6 million tax return. He also shared about a personal property tax relief of 50% coming soon. Mr. Edmondson gave information on the tax appeal process. On May 18 there is a drive through appeal, or an appeal appointment can be made. A question was asked what the year over year tax change was and he answered 18-20million. Another question was proposed, what would the financial impact be to Portsmouth "if" or "when" Norfolk city gets a casino? Mr. Edmondson stated that he believed that we would hopefully see gains overall and will keep focus on what we can do to keep Rivers going strong.

PDF/Bloom- Camille Cherry shared that bloom has 175 current and no vacancies. Joy sold two dedicated office spaces and two standard memberships this week. The conference room was reserved for 198 hours. The Bloom ribbon cutting was a great turn out. Two news channels were present, WTKR & WHRO.

Lefcoe- Don Commer shared about the recent graduation class. Lefcoe has 645 participants to graduate from the program in the last 28 years. He noted there is a trustee meeting next week and they will discuss ideas for next year.

Maritime- Thomas Cross gave the report and mentioned the tragedy in Baltimore. He shared that we are working to help Baltimore in any way that we can. Currently we are moving more containers for them until they can complete their rebuild by June. Thomas shared that we are transporting 18-20 thousand more TEU's. As much as he could he reassured us that Virginia is well positioned to not have such a catastrophe happen like that. A question was asked if they will send us more cruise ships to Norfolk from Baltimore. He answered that there are two currently and there have not been decisions on anymore. Another question was proposed regarding the timeline of the PMT project. He stated that it is anticipated to be completed by June this year.

OTBA- Andy Sutter said he would report at the next meeting.

Portsmouth Museums- Nancy Perry shared about their Annual Bunny Hop event that they had on March 23rd. There were over 100 participants in attendance to run despite rainy weather. She stated that a new executive director will be onboard and will get that information to Michelle to update.

Transportation- No report

V. NEW BUSINESS

Innovation District not approved by City Council

Michelle has hired an administrative assistant – Shina Madison – Shina comes with a lot of IT and technology expertise. She managed all support and technology for the Chesapeake Bay Academy and for Norfolk Public Schools prior. She owns her own business and is a Portsmouth Resident.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- First Citizen Banquet Thursday, April 25th at the Renaissance Hotel – Partnership has a table – Need to fill
- State of the City Portsmouth, May 3rd – Partnership has a table – Need to fill
- Hampton Roads Chamber 2024 Small Business Champion award – Michelle has been nominated for this award on behalf of the work the Partnership is doing in bloom. Winners will be notified April 30th Award's ceremony is June 21, 2024, luncheon.
- Next Executive Meeting April 25th @ 8:00am via Zoom
- Next Partnership Board Meeting May 13th @ 12:00pm at Bloom with new member orientation prior at 11:00 am
- Mayors Cup Boxing at the Pavilion April 13th
- PIT tickets available see Michelle.

Lunch provided by Cure

VII. Adjournment

Max Greenhood

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Shina Madison