



PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2022, 12:00 PM
Bloom Coworking
MINUTES

DIRECTORS: Edward Barham, Julie Bartley, Carley Brierre, Stephanie Osfolk Brown, Don Comer, Stephen Genthner, Jaclyn Gordon, Max Greenwood, Herb Haneman, Dana Hathorn, Brad Hunter, Ryan Kenrick, Justin Lovell, Cannon Moss, Fred Pasquine, John Paul, Melissa Ramsey, Joel Rubin, Robin Schmalbach, Chris Shelton, Hope Sinclair, Will Taylor, Rob Wilber

Ex-Officios: Edward Bland, Brian Donahue, Shannon Glover, Bruce LaLonde, Nancy Perry

STAFF: Michelle Wren, Sara Bendele

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Vice President Max Greenwood welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order.

Darlene Sparks Washington shares about Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless and their upcoming event, the Coldest Night of the Year, which will be held February 25th.

II. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Will Taylor, Chick-fil-A, Frederick Blvd.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 9, 2023, meeting are approved.

IV. REPORTS

Legislative Update

Not present.

Senator Lucas

City of Portsmouth

Mayor Glover introduces new interim City Manager, Mimi Terry. Mimi introduces herself. She is excited about the direction of Portsmouth leadership and is looking forward to moving Portsmouth forward.

Mayor Glover

Economic Development

Brian shares that there has been a lot of strong economic activity already this year. Despite concerns with inflation, rising interest rates, and the cost of materials, the pipeline here in Portsmouth is steady across all economies. There are some exciting projects that Brian will be able to share soon. 21 businesses applied for grants through the city's grant program. Some of those are businesses that are launching. Others are businesses that are expanding.

Brian Donahue/Brad Hunter

PDF - Bloom

Michelle provides the update. There are currently 5 vacant offices in Bloom. A marketing plan is in the works to fill those offices. A discount is being offered for Black BRAND members. Bloom and Black BRAND are gearing up for the next B-Force Accelerator program which will be in March. Michelle is excited for this as it brings a lot of business owners into the building. Michelle is currently working with Blair on funding for the program. They have received an award from Truist for this upcoming cohort and are applying for a grant from the state. The goal is to do two cohorts this year, and then build up to three annually.

Max Greenwood

The medium conference room at 719 High Street was moved to a smaller space to accommodate Harbor Health.

The first LISC social was Thursday, January 26th and was a great success. Meeting with Downtown Design Council

Cabell Grant Challenge. Ends in November. \$25,000 left for this.

The Bloom Committee is working on making alterations to signage plans based on feedback from the Downtown Design Council. There will be a large sign right above the middle canopy, and then a small sign on the Effingham side. Hopefully, the signage will be approved next month and then plans will move forward to get the signs started.

Education

Dr. Bracy/Hope Sinclair

No update provided.

Lefcoe Leadership Development

Don Comer

No new report.

Maritime Committee

Thomas Cross/Fred Pasquine

Fred says that there will be increasing barge traffic with large sections of aircraft on the Elizabeth River coming to Portsmouth. There is still a lot to be announced regarding Maritime and offshore wind.

Military Affairs

Pete Kopacz

Not present.

Nominating Committee

Ryan Kenrick

Ryan presents on the slate of officers and committee heads. Voting will occur at the annual meeting in March. For those interested in being a part of a committee, please email Ryan or Michelle.

OldeTown Business Association

Charles Brogan

Not present.

Portsmouth Museums & Foundation

Alex Benitez

Nancy announces that the BunnyHop will be held April 1st. Online registration is open.

PRHA

Ed Bland/Bruce LaLonde

Bruce shares that PRHA is excited about the new leadership in the city. There haven't been any significant security incidents at any of the PRHA properties recently. PRHA has been working more to invest in their properties by cleaning up trash and putting individual trash cans back for residents. Additionally, Mercy Drops has been coming by with food and clothes for residents. Ed Bland and staff have been trying to find trouble spots around PRHA properties and they plan to buy those properties. PRHA is working with a couple of nonprofits to make basketball hoops and provide basketballs to properties. Two area students won scholarships for academic performance at the state level. One student in Churchland won a \$20,000 scholarship.

Transportation

Cannon Moss

Nothing new to report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Regional Business Group – Partnership, VB, Vision, Greater Norfolk Council, and Chesapeake Alliance first action items – letters to GA – All 5 letters were approved and sent to the General Assembly. Letters were on toll mitigation, transit funding, I-64 gap funding, flood protection, business ready site funding. Meeting quarterly.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- OTBA initiative for Olde Towne – Would like the Partnership to be apart. This group will be working on a presentation to share with the Executive team. Version will be presented to the board.

- Bob Baldwin is no longer with the City of Portsmouth
- The Civic 50 Initiative by Volunteer Hampton Roads launches May 1st. Application deadline is July 31, 2023. Fantastic opportunity for Hampton Roads businesses. Score everybody and then award the top 50 Hampton Roads companies for civic activity. This is a nationwide launch, only in 5 other localities. Volunteer Hampton Roads pulled them in to this.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- First Robotics Competition is looking for volunteers – Churchland High School March 18th & 19th
- HR Biz Quarterly Expo & Mixer, Thursday, March 2nd 5-7pm Marnier’s Museum Park
- UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 6:00 at the Renaissance Hotel. Many sponsorship opportunities available.
- Military Officers Association served before 1975 trip to War Memorial, footing the bill.
- **Next Executive Meeting: February 23rd @ 8:00am. Zoom only.**
- **Next Partnership Board Meeting (ANNUAL MEETING): March 13th @ 12:00pm at Bloom**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Bendele
Administrative Assistant