



BOARD MEETING
June 10, 2024, 12:00PM
Bloom Coworking
Minutes

Attendance: Carley Brierre, Dr. Valerie Burge-Hall, Don Comer, Joe Donnelly, Blair Durham, Stephen Genthner, Jay Grant, Max Greenhood, Herbert Haneman, Dr. Bobbie Hansel-Union, Brad Hunter, John Paul, Melissa Ramsey, Joel Rubin, Robin Schmalbach, Chris Shelton, Hope Sinclair, Cameron Robinett, Brian Donahue, Frankie Edmondson, Shannon Glover, Peter Kopacz, Lauren Nolasco, 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

Max welcomed our new board member Commander James Cullen II

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes from April 8, 2024. An edit was noted to include Dr. Valerie Burge-Hall in the new member section. Minutes approved.

IV. Member Spotlight Jay Grant LISC Hampton Roads

Jay introduced his new EMERGE program that will be chartering here in Portsmouth. This is 16 week cohort experience for Real Estate developers. The program will provide affordable homes in Portsmouth. The program will target underserved communities. The program is set to start the later part of the year. They are in the funding phase and looking for investors.

V. Reports

Legislative Update- Senator Louise Lucas was not present.

City of Portsmouth- The Mayor had to step out, so a question was posed to the City Manager Steven Carter regarding the City Council vote regarding the innovation district. Steven Carter shared that it is on the agenda, but it will be introduced and deferred until the August 13 city council meeting. He encouraged individuals who were signed up to speak at the meeting to still share their thoughts.

Another question was asked if he could expand on what the issue was with approving the plans. Mr. Carter explained that there was a particular grant that was associated with the innovation district and a question was asked if there was a minority procurement plan in process. The city manager said he wants an answer when it brought back to vote.

Economic Development- Brian Donahue shared about a article emergence of the blue economy here in Portsmouth and the region. He shared that this is the focus of economic development. Mr. Donahue then shared about the Shop the Block High St. Festival event on July 6th.

Commissioner Office: Commissioner Edmondson gave another warm welcome to the new city manager. He shared about the new tax season. 180 came throughout the drive through appeal system. Revenue of 48 Million in primary billing. He also shared how downtown activities have been a great economic indicator that Portsmouth is moving in the right direction.

Education: Lauren Nolasco shared the many accomplishments of Portsmouth public schools 2024 graduates. 274 Honor Graduates, of those 172 earn college credits, 39 students have graduated with an associate degree in partnership with TCC. 11.6 million merit-based scholarships. 175 college/university including Harvard, Yale Princeton, and Brown

PDF/Bloom- Michelle reported for Camille. 190 members in bloom. No office vacancies. May \$2000 revenue. Bloom Market \$5,500 May increase from April Sold 2 custom stools \$500 each. Only the custom shoe vendor has not sold anything. Bloom members will take part of the shop the block festival. Bloom After dark is an incitive to bring traffic down to the 700 block. The featured vendor is Chrystal. Our juice vendor is really doing well, she sells out frequently. Surge cohort just graduated, and the next one will begin soon. Uplift program in July 5yrs and older. Working with Dollar Bank for Finacial literacy program monthly. Hosting a first-time homebuyer event with dollar bank.

A question was asked how many blue economy businesses we have in Bloom? Michelle said they have not been tracking that information but will investigate this.

Lefcoe- Don Commer shared that the applications are being sent out for the 757 Lead program.

Military Affairs: Naval medical center has several Residencies and Internships in June. Last week 80 internes arrived and another 80 will graduate at the end of the month and be assignable worldwide.

OTBA- Andy Sutter shared they are working on a strategic plan for the next 3 years. Once the plan is finalized, he will share it with the board. Focused on Arts and beautification and the farmer's market. It has 3 committees and is looking for volunteers. June 15 3p have a meeting with City Manager to discuss items they want to do for Olde Towne.

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- Cannon shared about the installation of the upgraded control system for the railroad crossing at Elm.

OLD BUSINESS

- We have hired a Program/Assistant Director, Liz Pasqualini. Liz will start on July 1, 2024.
- Sign up for committees – get involved in an area of interest – Let Shina know where you would like to serve.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Innovation District being presented at the June 11th City Council meeting. Board members should attend to show support of the district, and the redrawing of the district to include Bloom being an anchor business in the district.
- IMGoing invitation to - The Australian Pink Floyd show at the Pavilion on June 28, 2024

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wilber's having their annual party Saturday 6/15 from 4:30pm-11pm – should have received an 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 the program will be emailed.
- **Next Executive Meeting June 27th @ 8:00am via Zoom**
- **Next Partnership Board Meeting will be a Board Social July 25th 5:30-7:30 hosted by Rivers Casino. This will be held in the TopGolf bays. Spouses are invited. Shina will send out an invitation for your RSVP.**

Lunch provided by Roger Brown

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned

Max Greenhood

Respectfully submitted,
Shina Madison