



**PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**January 9, 2022, 12:00 PM**  
**Bloom Coworking**  
**MINUTES**

**DIRECTORS:** Edward Barham, Kate Brinn, Stephanie Osfolk Brown, Don Comer, Joe Donnelly, Stephen Genthner, Max Greenhood, Dana Hathorn, Brad Hunter, Ryan Kenrick, Stephen Korving, Stan Magann, Cannon Moss, Fred Pasquine, Melissa Ramsey, Joel Rubin, Hope Sinclair, Rob Wilber  
**Ex-Officios:** Alex Benitez, Brian Donahue, Shannon Glover, Peter Kopacz, Bruce LaLonde, Nancy Perry  
**STAFF:** Michelle Wren

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Vice President Max Greenhood welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**II. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Kate Brinn, President, Maryview Medical Center**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the December 12, 2022, meeting are approved.

**IV. REPORTS**

**Legislative Update**

Not present.

**Senator Lucas**

**City of Portsmouth**

Mayor Glover met with Wavy News 10, who is doing a piece on the casino this week and expresses his excitement over the casino's grand opening.

**Mayor Glover**

The city had its reorganization meeting last Tuesday. Lisa Lucas Burke is now the Vice Mayor of Portsmouth. The Mayor and Councilman Moody have regained the Personnel Committee back. The City Manager was released of her duties, and Mimi Terry was voted in to be the interim City Manager. She is from Portsmouth, has an extensive background in finance, and has experience working with Selena Cuffee-Glenn. She is working to assemble a team that will reflect the vision of Council. Chief Jenkins, who was previously interim, is now permanent Chief of Police.

Mayor Glover emphasizes that Portsmouth is winning and is working towards being the number one place to do business in Hampton Roads. Mayor Glover is confident in the new leadership team that is now in place but says that Portsmouth cannot reach its fullest potential without the people of the Portsmouth Partnership.

**Economic Development**

Brian shares that the Business Investment Grant program is currently accepting grant applications through the end of the month.

**Brian Donahue/Brad Hunter**

**PDF - Bloom****Max Greenhood**

Michelle provides the update. Bloom continues to receive many inquiries about offices. There are currently four vacant offices, but Michelle does think that those will be filled by next quarter. A couple of dedicated desks have also been filled. There are a few members, mainly Start-Up Stability folks, who have outstanding balances. Michelle is working on those. A couple of people had to be let go at the end of the year due to their outstanding balances.

Michelle is working with Black BRAND on the next B-Force Accelerator program for the spring. Black BRAND and the Partnership are submitting joint grant applications for this. Black BRAND has already received a grant from the city. B-Force offers no cost to participants but is a very expensive program. Ideally, Michelle would like to have it three times throughout the year, as it is a great opportunity for Bloom and its members. Michelle is also looking at different other educational programs to host throughout the year to continue to keep doors open to the entrepreneur community in the Hampton Roads area.

Bloom hosted the Black Nonprofit Alliance this past Saturday. There were about 15 nonprofits that attended who received good information and made valuable connections.

Michelle is submitting signage proposals to the Downtown Design Committee for Bloom. Some people are still confused about the two spaces (739 and 719), so the new signage should make a big difference.

Rivers Casino has moved out of 739b. Michelle approached Breeden about having first right of refusal at that space. They are happy for the Partnership to market 739b and offer short-term leases. It's 2000 square feet and is fully furnished, so it's a good opportunity for a business that needs something temporarily. Michelle has also talked to Brian Donahue about this but asks board members to let her know if they have any leads here. Breeden is actively working to permanently fill the space.

\$44,000 has been raised out of the \$75,000 goal for the Cabell Matching Grant. This includes pledges. Michelle asks for commitments from those who have yet to do so. Payment will not be due until November. Michelle will send a link to a digital pledge form today. Michelle is asking for businesses to step up to help get closer to that \$75,000 goal. As a reminder, no foundation money can go towards this challenge. The hope is not to have to have a big fundraising event. This is a matching grant, so if the Partnership board does not raise \$75,000, zero dollars will be matched by the Cabell Foundation.

**Education****Dr. Bracy/Hope Sinclair**

No update provided.

**Lefcoe Leadership Development****Don Comer**

The 2023 Lefcoe class kicked off this past Wednesday night. Co-sponsorships are still available to cover buses for the trip to Richmond and the tour of Portsmouth. Sponsorships are available at \$250.

**Maritime Committee****Thomas Cross/Fred Pasquine**

Fred shares that there is a lot happening in Maritime that has not been made public just yet. There should be several positive announcements in the next 90 days regarding offshore wind and naval shipbuilding in Norfolk and Portsmouth.

**Military Affairs****Pete Kopacz**

The hospital has reintegrated the 600 individuals who were previously on the USS Comfort.

**Nominating Committee****Ryan Kenrick**

The Nominating Committee will be meeting later this month to discuss committee chairs. Please email Ryan or Michelle if you'd like to nominate anyone for a committee or step down from a position.

**OldeTown Business Association****Charles Brogan**

Not present.

**Portsmouth Museums & Foundation**

**Alex Benitez**

Stephen announces that the 2023 Bunny Hop will be April 1<sup>st</sup>. Sponsorships are available, and registration is open.

Dr. Benitez shares that the museums are preparing for some new, upcoming exhibits. The Black History Now program series for Black History Month will include lots of great programs, speakers, and scholars.

**PRHA**

**Ed Bland/Bruce LaLonde**

PRHA appreciates the change in leadership and is already getting to connect with Council about their projects.

**Pavilion**

**Robin Schmalbach**

Not present.

**Transportation**

**Cannon Moss**

Nothing new to report.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

- Rivers Casino Portsmouth has grand opening on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Please reach out to Ryan with your interest in committee positions for the upcoming year.
- Update on the Pavilion contract: IMGoing submitted their response to the City’s RFP to book the Pavilion. IMGoing was the only company to submit a response. They are actively working on their decision.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Initial meeting with Regional Business Group Executive Directors to discuss how our organizations can collaborate and support Economic Development within the region – Partnership, VB Vision, Greater Norfolk Council, and Chesapeake Alliance.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- WINDSday Newsletter featuring Portsmouth – hope everyone had the opportunity to read
  - Joel adds, if you are not receiving this newsletter and would like to, please reach out to him. Additionally, let Joel know of any small businesses who would love to be featured in this weekly newsletter.
- Norfolk Forum discounted tickets available for the January 24<sup>th</sup> session, \$30 each. Speaker is Linda Johnson Rice. Deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Sara to purchase.
- UNCF Mayors’ Masked Ball, Saturday, March 11, 2023, 6:00pm at the Renaissance Hotel. Many sponsorship opportunities available.
- Congratulations to Will and Erica Taylor on the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Marie Taylor, on December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Next Executive Meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00am. Zoom only.**
- **Next Partnership Board meeting: February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00pm at Bloom.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Bendele  
Administrative Assistant