

Gloucester Tourism Commission

Meeting February 11, 2015 6:00PM

City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, 3rd floor

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Daniel, Carol Thistle, Pauline Bresnahan, Melissa Cox, Laura Dow, Paul Frontiero, John Orlando, Catherine Ryan,

Absent: Peter Webber, Zach Sears, Laura Baker, Karen Ristuben

Also present: Linn Parisi

It was noted that Melissa Cox attended the last meeting, but her name was left off the minutes. With this correction, the Tourism Commission Minutes 1-15, 2015 were accepted. Pauline offered to take notes.

Update from Tom and Carol:

Tom and Carol met with the Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken and Chief Administrative Officer Jim Destino to review the Tourism Commission's proposal/ memo of December 1, 2015 to create a new public/private tourism organization with increased city financial support. The meeting was very positive and the Mayor expressed her support of tourism.

There was discussion about creating a Tourism transition team that would report to the Tourism Commission and assist with the work until the new public/private organization was formed. Carol will work with the ad hoc team. The committee will also include from Discover Gloucester-Linn Parisi, Tobin Dominick and Laura Dow (also representing Tourism Commission). There was discussion about who should be on the transition committee and it was opened up to all Tourism Commission members. A tentative date for the first meeting was set for Thursday, March 19. Time TBA

Next on the agenda was budget for the remaining monies from the 2014-2015. \$5,000 was spent to date with \$45,000 remaining. Carol reported that the Tourism Commission also raised over \$3,500 through in-kind donations. Questions arose about the Assistant Volunteer position and if it could be funded through "free cash" from the city's budget. If that was not possible, the group voted to continue to fund it anyway through the Tourism Commission.

Tom and Carol recommended contributing \$8k to Discover Gloucester to help with their distribution of the Discover Gloucester Visitors guide, as well as paying \$2K to Linn Parisi as a consultant during the transition period. A contribution to the Schooner Festival was also approved at \$2,500. The remaining funds in the budget will be further discussed at the March meeting.

Meeting was called at 8:20pm

