

Gloucester Tourism Commission

Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2015

Gloucester City Hall

9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Carol Thistle, Pauline Bresnahan, Laura Dow, John Orlando, Laura Baker, Peter Webber, Karen Ristuben (left mid meeting), Paul Frontierro

Absent: Tom Daniels, Zach Sears, Catherine Ryan, Melissa Cox

Also present: Sue Silveira

Minutes from last meeting held on April 16<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Karen Ristuben and seconded by Paul Frontierro and was unanimously approved

A formal name for the new tourism entity was discussed. Karen Ristuben made a motion to adopt Peter Webber's suggestion from last April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting that the new entity be named "Gloucester Tourism Alliance" with a d/b/a name of "Discover Gloucester" be voted upon. The motion was seconded by John Orlando and the motion was passed unanimously.

Carol Thistle began the review of legal concerns in adopting a set of bylaws for the new tourism entity. First submitting a proposed time line for consideration, as well as, a description of Articles of Organization and need for (at least) 3 directors of the organization. These directors will include an executive director, clerk, and treasurer. A preliminary draft of these articles of organization was passed out to all in attendance and the description of the duties of each of the officers were discussed and edited. John Orlando raised concern that two city representatives on the board may be too many, giving the city two votes to other directors' one vote. He preferred that one rep was enough. A vote was taken and it was voted to allow the city two representatives by a vote of 5 to 1. A revised copy of this document was planned to be ready for the transition team which meets on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sue Silveira expressed her knowledge of board duties of organizations she has participated in the past. She also proposed that the document include insurance to protect the directors of the new organization. All directors agreed to allow legal to oversee the proposal and insurance concerns and save final determination based upon their recommendations.

**Visitors Center** was then discussed Opening date and tourism mixer set for May 21, 2015 between 5PM and 7 PM. Volunteers to help prepare the center for the opening as well as to acquisition refreshments from various venues were decided upon. Noted announcements were that Kathy Gilson was retained as the Welcome Center Coordinator, there has been a posting issued for an assistant Welcome Center Coordinator, and for interns as well at Endicott College and other area schools.

Laura Baker announced that tours of area's accommodations by visitor center volunteers are set for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Block Parties** – Carol gave brief update on four downtown Block Parties. The current dates are June 20, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and September 5<sup>th</sup>. Three people were interviewed for coordinator for the events. No word on any decision at this point.

John Orlando raised the concern of who is available to handle tourism request while the city is in transition and also raised concern about the appropriateness of Tracy Mueller, Jan Bordinaro, and Peter Van Ness being the City's contact people and the first one's privy to tourism request for city information. Laura Dow indicated that the city's web site was working well in getting hits and Carol Thistle made a note to look into the dissemination of information.

John Orlando also voiced concern of a plan to address DPW needs during non-business days and off hours so as to not allow the persistence of situations that detract from the city during off hours or days.

Paul Frontierro voiced concerns of tour busses that bring visitors to the city being ticketed with parking violations in areas that do not impair normal city operations. The question was raised whether or not they, who are bringing multiple visitors to our area and often run tight to a budget, should be on the same plane as a passenger vehicle.

Both concerns were noted and action delayed to possibly address to the mayor at some future date.

Peter Webber then made a motion to adjourn this meeting, a vote was then approved.

Note Taker: Paul Frontierro