

Tourism Commission Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2013

The following individuals were in attendance:

Commission Members – Tourism Commission Chair and Council Secretary Mary Knight, Mayor Rick Meehan, Councilman Dennis Dare, Councilman Joe Mitrecic, Todd Ferrante, OCDC; Buck Mann, Chamber of Commerce. Staff members present were David Recor, City Manager; Donna Abbott, Tourism Director; Larry Noccolino, Convention Center Director; Lisa Osman, Tourism Department; Tom Shuster, Recreation and Parks Director. Also present Melanie Pursel, Chamber; and Susan Jones, HMRA. Media representatives present were Zach Hoopes, Ocean City Today, and Joanne Shriner, Maryland Coast Dispatch.

Mary Knight called meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She announced that we would start with the partner's updates and would then go into a closed session to discuss contractual items.

Updates from other Departments & Organizations

Susan Jones announced HMRA's new Event Manager, Liz Walk, was recently hired. She stated that HMRA will have a Board Meeting on September 19 and will discuss strategies for collecting zip codes. Susan mentioned that HMRA will have two beer stations at Bikefest to benefit their non-profit fundraiser. She also said that HMRA and the OC Chamber of Commerce will host a Joint Healthcare Seminar on Tuesday, September 17, at the Convention Center.

Melanie Pursel introduced Buck Mann, the new President of the OC Chamber of Commerce. She said that the Annual OC Chamber Grand Ball at the Clarion September 6, went very well. She mentioned that the Start-Up Maryland "Entrepreneur Pitch Bus," made a stop at the Boardwalk Arch today. The event promoted entrepreneurial culture and emphasized the importance of small business formation to our economy. She announced that the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual OC Chamber Crab Feast will be held on Thursday, October 10, at Phillips Crab House. She distributed the OC Voice for Business publication to all attendees.

Larry Noccolino announced two new groups that may be coming to the Convention Center in 2014, the Transportation Association of Maryland and the Maryland Technology Group. There is also potential for a third group to come. Phase 2 of the Convention Center construction will start on October 20.

Tom Shuster announced that they are busy getting ready for Sunfest. The parade will be held on September 19 at 9:30 a.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Sunfest has re-gained the #1 ranking from Sunshine Artist Magazine. Springfest is ranked #5 in the Top 10. Tickets for the headliners are going well. Beach Boys sold out on May 28.

Todd Ferrante announced that the Park Place Jewelers Treasure Hunt will be held on September 21-22, and the Sunfest Kite Festival will be held September 19-22.

Citizen in attendance Frank Adkins spoke about making Ocean City more RV-friendly. He suggested that we look into hosting a booth at the RV travel show held in Hershey, PA, to promote Ocean City.

Regular meeting was adjourned and closed session began.

The next meeting will be held on October 11 in Room 214 at the Convention Center.