

Visitor Services Board

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

disclosure: These minutes are not verbatim – they are the secretary’s interpretation of what took place at the meeting. – Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 22.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven Lydon, Chair
Everett Malaguti
Alyssa Smith
Chris Anzuoni
Susan Krabbe

ABSENT MEMBERS

Jesse Centamore
Richard Quintal

STAFF:

Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning & Development
Laurie Maiolini-Ayotte, Recording Secretary

WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. Lydon called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2023

Mr. Malaguti motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 18, 2022. Ms. Smith seconded. The Board approved, 5-0.

FINAL GRANT REQUESTS

Mr. Lydon reviewed the final invoice for the Philharmonic America’s Hometown Celebration Concert and recommended approval. Mr. Malaguti motioned to approve the Philharmonic America’s Hometown Celebration Concert in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The Board approved (5-0)

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Every year, The School Department, Select Board and VSB contribute \$5,000 each to the Distinguished Visitors, Shichigahama fund. September 1990, The Boards of Selectmen of Shichigahama and Plymouth approved a plan to declare "Sister City" status. Mr. Lydon had conversations with the Chair of the School Committee, Kim Savery Hunt, and Selectmen, John Mahoney and Harry Helm mentioning that he was going to motion not to approve funding to the Distinguished Visitors this year. However, Mr. Lydon noted if the funding is needed then the VSB will provide them the funding. This year, The School Department is planning a trip with students to Japan. Currently, The Shichigahama fund \$76,000. Mr.

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Anzuoni motioned not to contribute \$5,000 this year to the Distinguished Visitors. Mr. Malaguti seconded the motion. The Board approved (5-0)

POLAR PLUNGE

Mr. Lydon recommended to approve the FY23 Polar Plunge awarded funding of \$500 even though they have not submitted their final invoice. Mr. Malaguti questioned if approving this payment would be a one-time occurrence. If this becomes a regular practice, then language would need to be updated in the grant application. Mr. Anzuoni motioned to fund \$500 to the Polar Plunge. Mr. Malaguti seconded the motion. The Board approved (5-0).

DISCUSSION ON ADDING \$1,000 TO THE BUDGET FOR THE TOURISM CONFERENCE AND OTHER EVENTS

Mr. Hartmann encouraged Board members to attend conferences/events to see first-hand how the VSB funding is being spent. Funding to conferences or other events would be available on first come, first serve basis. Mr. Malaguti motioned to fund \$1,000 for conferences and events. Mr. Anzuoni seconded the motion. The Board approved (5-0).

CONVENTION CENTER

A firm was hired to do a study to determine if it's feasible to have a mid-level convention center in Plymouth and where it should be located. The study determined that the Convention should be located in Plymouth. The Convention Center would offer 19,000 square feet of exhibit space, 11,000 square feet of ballroom space and 5,000 square feet of break out meeting space and 190 committable hotel rooms. Additionally, 40,000 square feet would be used for administration. Total square footage is around 100,000 square feet not including hotel space. Ground floor street facing retail will be included in the space. The project is expected to take 5-7 years.

VISITOR CENTER

The Town owns the Visitor Center; the Town will determine the size of the building and where it will be located. More restrooms are needed and should be assessable from the outside. More space is also needed within the building for people to congregate and to accommodate the sale of smaller items. The legislature provided \$90k and the VSB provided \$125K towards the updates to the Visitor Center.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Maiolini-Ayotte, Administrative Secretary

Approved on:

Next meetings: February 7, February 21, March, 21, April, 18, May 16, June 20,