

Talbot County Tourism Board
Meeting Minutes
October , 2023
Via Zoom

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairwoman Judy Bixler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jessica Bellis, Judy Bixler, Angela Eade, Ian Fleming, Kristen Greenaway, Amy Kreiner, Cassandra Vanhooser

Members Absent: Maureen Curry, Keasha Haythe, Mary Kellogg, Harold Klinger, Mark Salter, Jeff Schneider

II. Director's Report – Cassandra M. Vanhooser

The meeting lacked a quorum when the meeting started. Chairman Bixler moved Ms. Vanhooser's report to the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Vanhooser wished those in attendance a happy fall.

Staffing: Krista Boothby resigned her position effective Sept. 22 to care for her aging mother. Ms. Vanhooser noted that the County opened the position immediately, and they have interviewed for the position. She is checking references for the candidate that was selected, and she expects the County will make an offer soon.

Journalist Visits: Typically, we see the bulk of our journalists in the spring. This year, we have had numerous requests from journalists early in the year. Most recently, the County hosted Collin Audibert, chief editor, and Photographer Yud Pourdieu Le Coz of France's *Roadtrip Magazine*. Mr. Audibert was on assignment to write a 15-page feature of the region. Another journalist scheduled for October 18-19 cancelled after a health emergency. She will reschedule.

IEDC Conference: Ms. Vanhooser and her colleague Ryan Snow both attended the International Economic Development Council meeting in Dallas on September 16-19. Just an observation: IEDC is beginning to embrace tourism as economic development and is including more content on tourism-related topics.

Chesapeake National Recreation Area: Representatives from Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes' offices attended a work session with the County Council to discuss the federal legislation that is proposes the formation of a Chesapeake National Recreation Area. Working watermen have openly opposed this legislation as they fear it will eventually limit commercial fishing in the Chesapeake Bay

Maritime Museum. The Council has not taken a position which is consistent with what other counties have done.

Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations: Ms. Vanhooser has been elected chairman of the Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations for a second time. She served a two-and-a-half year terms from 2015-2017.

III. Town Reports

Town representatives reported on news and events taking place in their jurisdictions.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023

Ms. Bixler presented the minutes from the September 13, 2023, meeting. Ms. Bellis made a motion to approve the minutes with Ms. Greenaway seconding the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Comments from Board Members

Board members shared insights on happenings in their businesses, nonprofits, or industries.

VI. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Upcoming Meetings

- Tourism Board Meeting, October 11
- Tourism Board Meeting, November 8
- Maryland Travel and Tourism Summit, November 8-10
- Coffee and Conservation at the Waterfowl Festival, November 10
- Tourism Board Meeting, December 13

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Bixler called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Greenaway made the motion to adjourn; Ms. Kreiner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.