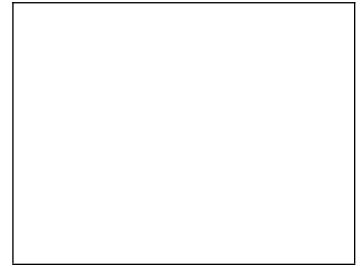




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: __8:00am__

MEETING DATE: __December 14__ Time Meeting Adjourned: __8:39am__

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Janet Schulte, Director of Culture and Tourism, David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator, Josh Gray, Chair, Sarah Bois, Liz Holland, Mary Malavase, Vice Chair, Peter Morrison, Matt Peel and Sharon Quigley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
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1 Welcome VSAC Members	David Sharpe welcomed the members of the committee to meeting. The meeting is held by Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He then asked for a roll call of all members present. The Visitor Services Coordinator then reviewed the ground rules and script for remotely conducted open meetings via Zoom.	
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2 Approval of Minutes from November 9	The minutes from November were unanimously approved.	7-0
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3 Discussion about Stranded Passengers	Liz Holland started the discussion about making contingency plans for when passengers are stranded when boats or planes are cancelled due to weather near the end of the day. In years past, there was group that helped with stranded passengers, but that group is no longer active. This last July on a Friday night, 81 people were stranded when the Hy-Line was cancelled due to weather and the airline decided not to send a later plane when the weather improved. All the hotels were booked. The Hy-Line sent an extra ferry during the night to take them back to the mainland. The emergency shelter at the Nantucket High School will open only for a Red Cross/ Natural Disaster event. Liz reported that she and Sharon have talked to people as well as the Nantucket Hotel, Cape Air and jetBlue who are all willing to help out with future strandings. It is planned to also send an e-mail to Town manager, Libby Gibson and the Select Board to make them aware of these situations. Liz added that possible future shelter locations could include various hotel ballrooms as well as the Boys and Girls Club gym. Heat, water and bathrooms are required. The ultimate goal is to set up a group that would activate using a template similar to a contingency plan that Cape Air uses, this group might include the Nantucket Lodging Association and many of the island real estate offices.	
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4 Director's Report	Janet reported that the Nantucket Cultural District in conjunction with the Massachusetts Cultural Council will be funding 5 grants to 4 island organizations. They have projects promoting diversity. There are 3 more applications for the grant program thru the C&T operating budget. The Cultural Council met in November and will hand out 15 grants in April. These grants cover 2019 thru 2021 as the Council was not able to meet publicly because of Covid. The director reported that she participated in interviews for the new Park and Recreation manager position. At tomorrow night's Select Board meeting, Janet and the board will review the plans for the July 4 th activities. Contrary to recent social media headlines saying the water fight is back	
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on, the traditional water fight on Main Street has been modified to be an actual contest between fire companies to fill a 55 gallon drum. It will be much safer avoiding the mayhem and safety concerns that have been taking place in recent years. The reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Unitarian Church will be scheduled for 10:00am. The church will ask the Dreamland to see if they can video simulcast the reading in hopes of avoiding standing room only crowds. The church can hold only 350 people. Food trucks will be stationed downtown and non-profits will have information booths. Many of the traditional morning activities will be moved to Children's Beach. There will also be a bike, dog and hat parades.

5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report

David reviewed the statistics for November and touched on the updated Tour of Lights map. He updated the committee about the office hours in the winter. The office will be open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm and closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The office will be closed on Friday, Christmas Eve as it is an official holiday. Mary and Matt noted during the recent Christmas Stroll, there were long lines to see Santa Claus on Saturday adding that there were too many adults. Sharon suggested that the better alternative to see Santa is the Santa Brunch this weekend at the Nantucket Hotel. David reported that there will not be many restaurants open during the Christmas weekend. The committee briefly discussed the office's restaurant list, how it is updated and the number of restaurants open in the winter.

There will be no meeting in January.

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