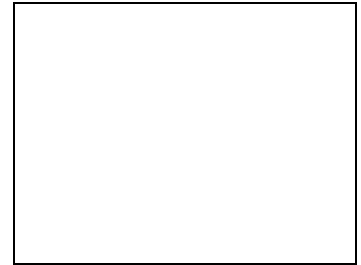




MINUTES TEMPLATE



COMMITTEE: Visitor Services Advisory Committee Time Meeting called to Order: 8:02am

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2023 Time Meeting Adjourned: 8:50am

MEMBERS PRESENT via ZOOM: Garison Beale, Sarah Bois, Liz Holland, Mary Malavase, Niles Parker and Matt Peel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Morrison

ALSO PRESENT: Marina Dzvonik, Town of Nantucket Events and Film Permit Coordinator

STAFF PRESENT: Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Director of Culture & Tourism and David Sharpe, Visitor Services Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	VOTES / ROLL CALL
1 Welcome VSAC Members	Shantaw welcomed the committee members to the meeting. The Director read the remote meeting script and asked for a roll call of all members, guest speakers and staff present.	
2 Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2023	The November 14, 2023 minutes were approved 6-0.	
3 Conversation with Marina Dzvonik, Town of Nantucket Events and Film Permit Coordinator	Marina Dzvonik gave an overview of her role as the Town of Nantucket's Events and Film Permit Coordinator and how it fits into the Nantucket Police Department. She mentioned that her office issues 5-6 film permits annually. She explained the various permits needed based on the type of event, entertainment, food, and beverage offered at the event. In general, applications are submitted to Marina, she then reviews them and forwards them to the necessary departments, i.e., Health, Police, Fire, Town Admin, etc., for review and approval. In addition to film and event permits, there are also street and sidewalk blocking requests and outdoor event requests. A few changes implemented over the past few years is the need for outdoor events to submit an Emergency Action Plan with each permit request. In 2023, the department issued approximately 300 permits that included several annual events, beach events, private events and art gallery openings that cannot last more than 2 hours. She clarified that events with DJs or amplified music need to be reviewed by the Fire Department. Marina added that if alcohol is being served at an event, servers must be TIPS certified. If there is an event that plans to have more than 250 people in attendance, the event must be reviewed by the Selectboard if it has never been held on the island in the past. The Selectboard also reviews location changes if it is an annual event. Recently, the Firecracker 5K road race was approved to change its starting location from Young's Way and Old South Road to Jetties Beach. The permitting process for the year opens in January. Marina noted that an issue her office is trying to curtail is the selling of tickets and promotion of events prior to their permit approval. This practice is absolutely against the rules. She also wanted to note that there is a noise by-law that goes into effect at 10:00pm. Marina was asked about weddings on certain properties. She responded that the Town would only get involved if it is a	

large weddings on public beaches that would disrupt usage of the property by the public. Wedding receptions taking place in restaurants or are catered do not need an event permit as the facility/caterer already has the approved licenses for such an event.

In general, events on private property can have 3 different tents at different times but no more than 9 days total. Commercial properties can have a tent for no longer than 30 days. When asked about complaints, Marina stated that she had only heard about 2-3 complaints this year and the department reached out each time to let the individual or business know that they need to have a permit for future reference. Marina also noted that The Sandbar restaurant at Jetties Beach and The Galley Beach restaurant at Cliffside can have tents but only in May, September, and October.

4 Director's Report

Shantaw reported that the Placer A.I. stats for November were as follows: 26,800 visitors (not including daily commuters) to the island, which is up 4.4% over last year. The busiest time of the day is 10am to 7pm. The Brotherhood of Thieves restaurant was the busiest location. Over Christmas Stroll weekend (Thursday-Monday), there were 21,980 visitors, up 5.8% from last year and 71.9% from 2 years ago. During that time, the 5 busiest locations were Straight Wharf Restaurant, Hy-Line ferry, Brotherhood, Nantucket Hotel and the Club Car restaurant. Most people came to the island via Hy-Line Cruises, Seastreak and Steamship Authority ferries or flew in from Boston or White Plains, NY.

The committee briefly discussed Christmas Stroll. There were a lot of people and there was a concern of not having enough restrooms or portapotties available around the Stroll Marketplace in the Stop and Shop parking lot on Saturday. The Stop and Shop and the Nantucket Boat Basin also closed some of their restrooms to the public that day. Shantaw noted that there were bathroom issues all around and that portapotties will be required next year pending a location. It was also noted that there were some off-island businesses at the Saturday marketplace that may have taken business away from island non-profits. The Director explained that the Chamber offered spaces to all Chamber members which include off-island businesses. She offered to share the concerns with the Chamber staff.

Shantaw continued to report that Ann Medina who managed the US Passport office on the island has retired. The Culture and Tourism office has been approved as the new Passport Application Acceptance Facility for Nantucket. It will begin processing only new applications in late January by appointments only. Her plan is to hire someone that can assist with this in the future.

5 Visitor Services Coordinator Report

David reviewed the statistics for November and Christmas Stroll Weekend. With Stroll over, the office is now open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. He then noted that the Tour of Lights map is now available for pick up at the office or download from the Culture & Tourism website. Matt asked about judging the lights and the competition surrounding the Tour of Lights from years past. David explained that the event, which at one point included judges and voting, is now intended for people to enjoy and have something to do at their leisure, it is no longer an incentivized event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Signature _____