

PROVINCETOWN VISITOR SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
September 18, 2002

Location: Judge Welsh Room – Town Hall

Present: Steve Melamed, Chairman, Barbara Rushmore, Vice-Chairman, Rob Tosner, Steve Roderick, Rose Basile

Others Present: Michelle Jarusiewicz, Grant Administrator, members of the general public (**Steve – I have the names of all officials present – do I list them or where they representing as members of the general public?**)

Absent: Patricia Fitzpatrick, Tourism Director (excused absence)

Resigned: Michael Van Belle, Patrick Casey

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

This meeting was to receive suggestions from the general public as to how best utilize the \$351,000 non-windfall, adjustment in budgeting, which the VSB presently needs to distribute. Steve Melamed explained that there are recommendations presently on the floor that staff had requested, specifically:

- West End public restrooms - \$88,250
- East End public restrooms – no spending level yet established
- Historic Walk Trail - \$47,500
- Bike Path - \$6,625
- Storage Business - \$47,625

Total requested to \$151,000.

Steve invited the general public to speak in favor or opposition of any of these recommendations, as well as bring to the table other recommendations. He outlined the protocol for this portion of the meeting and apprised the public that the VSB would be holding a regular meeting on September 24th at 11:00 a.m., as a follow-up to this meeting to complete the compilation of recommendations. Rob Tosner added that there were also request from a meeting in February, 2002, pertinent to this issue.

Steve Melamed invited the first speaker to the table.

James Mack, Chairman of the Beautification Committee approached the Board with his request for the renovation of the traffic island at Lopes Square. Total requested: \$60,000 He also had several other requests including:

- Completion of Bas Relief project - \$10,000
- Planting trees across from the U.S. Post office to replace whiskey barrels \$2,000
- Bricking the sidewalk from the east side of Ryder to Commercial Street, toward Bradford to the parking lot as well as placing new benches there - \$25,000
- Bricking the east side of Ryder Street Extension from Commercial toward the MPL to the end of the sidewalk - \$20,000

Attached are his recommendations in writing, which are on file with this document with the Town Clerk, as a matter of public record.

Questions from the Board ensued. Steve Melamed asked if the recommendations were concurrent with the DPW. Dave Guertin as a member of the public responded that the DPW was in full concert with these recommendations.

Donna Vallencourt president of the PBG next spoke. She submitted a recommendation from the PBG Board, which is not yet voted on by the membership, to transform Firehouse #2 into a tourist center and restroom facility. Total amount requested: \$351,000. No questions ensued. Attached is her recommendation in writing, which is on file with this document with the Town Clerk, as a matter of public record.

Michael Bunn as a member of the spoke on behalf of year-round and seasonal workers and residents in need of affordable housing. He asked that the Board allot \$75,000 to 100,000 to the Affordable housing Trust Fund enacted by the State. Questions ensued re: how much is presently in the fund, how the distribution works and if availability of these funds were exclusive to Provincetown and how the Land Bank works. Michael explained the procedures, as well as apprised the Board that these homes would be made out of already existing units, which need refurbishment. No attachments were submitted.

Cheryl Andrews, a member of the BOS, speaking as a member of the general public spoke on behalf of the Bike Path proposal for \$66,000, previously submitted to the VSB. She urged the VSB to respond to this proposal since it had been under consideration for some time. A detailed discussion between Cheryl, the Board, and members of the public ensued, pertinent to the Path and its various proposed locations, as well as safety and feasibility issues.

Chris Percarance spoke on behalf of the Provincetown Chamber Orchestra, urging the VSB to respond to a proposal previously submitted and requesting a total of \$9,000 for the upkeep of the orchestra. He was advised by the Board to apply for his funding under the aegis of a grant for an arts organization. Attached is his request in writing, which is on file with this document with the Town Clerk, as a matter of public record.

Gino Rizzoni of the Historical Commission requested \$10,000 to do a paint analysis for three major town landmarks; Town Hall, the present Library and the new Library, to be able to restore these buildings back to their original color schemes. No discussion ensued.

Barbara Rushmore, as a private citizen and former member of the Beautification Committee requested \$60,000 to create a sidewalk from McMillan Wharf to Fisherman's Wharf. She explained the advantages of this sidewalk and what it would entail. Discussion ensued.

She next requested \$50,000 to begin to put electric and telephone wires underground and explained the advantages. Discussion ensued.

She also requested \$10,000 to clean the Bas Relief and \$2,000 to paint a sidewalk from the West side of Route 6 to Cemetery Road. Discussion ensued on both of these topics. Attached are her requests in writing, which are on file with this document with the Town Clerk, as a matter of public record.

Steve Melamed as a member of the general public introduced his and Tourism Director's Patricia Fitzpatrick's idea to create a "Yellow Brick Road" which would encompass identifying Historical sights throughout the town. He suggested that this trail would reach from one of the ferry terminals or airport in Boston to Provincetown, and would be similar to the "Freedom Trail" in Boston. He requested \$75,000- 100,000 to produce this venture. Discussion ensued.

Barbara Rushmore made a statement to the public at this point, explaining that the money is earmarked for projects, which would improve the town. She said that the VSB was very anxious to use this \$351,000 in a beneficial way with low maintenance.

The issue of public restrooms was discussed at length between the Board and members of the general public. David Guertin of the DPW was questioned at length by the Board about staffing issues and other things pertinent to proper creation and functionality of additional restroom facilities.

The Board and the public discussed a general overview of the evening's recommendations and requests.

The meeting was adjourned by Rob Tosner at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stefanie Sanev
Recording Secretary