

## **OBTF Minutes of January 26, 2006 Meeting**

Jody called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

Jody congratulated everyone, noting that this meeting is the 2nd year anniversary of the OBTF.

Members and visitors introduced themselves.

Ray Davis asked prior to meeting if we could give a brief history of the OBTF, which was provided by Jody Crosswhite and Cheryl Byrd.

Cheryl Byrd updated the members on the contract extension between OBTF and ITRE. Jud Laurie with ITRE was waiting on the approval from NCDOT to continue with the fulfillment of the contract as it pertained to unused funds still available from the original contract. Jud has started on some of the preliminary work feeling assured of approval of the no-cost contract extension.

Herb Mullen gave a brief report on the Trolley Bus meeting from Jan. 20th. The partnership between both Dare and Currituck Counties would make the private contacting of a Trolley Bus operator more enticing.

The proposed Statement of Work from KFH Group was handed out to the members to review and approve. Herb Mullen explained that the KFH Group did the consulting work on a trolley bus system for Corolla and also for Ocracoke. NCDOT's Charles Glover recommended the KFH Group, because they are already familiar with the area and have done the work in the adjoining counties to Dare County. Cheryl Byrd will ask the Dare County Board of Commissioners (DCBC) for 10% of the \$18,005.00 consulting fee with NCDOT picking up the other 90%. A motion to approve the contract and Statement of Work, as written, was made by Gwen Cruickshanks and seconded by Ben Sproul. The motion passed unanimously.

The Van Transportation Pilot project from last summer was discussed next. Members and guests discussed ridership and lessons learned from the previous summer's pilot program. Paul Keller, with the non-profit group OBX Pathways, felt strongly about the need for transportation for summer employees. The use of the vans was approved in 2005 by the DCBC with a stipulation that the vans are for use by everyone, and not just for the "foreign workers". Last year the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau provided \$11,000.00 in funding for the project. Just over \$6,000.00 was actually spent. Ben Sproul said that there needs to be better advertising for the scheduled service, and that the funds left could have been used for that. The OBTF voted to approve another, but somewhat different, Van Transportation Pilot Program should be done over the summer of 2006. The Bus – Trolley Transportation Committee will work on this project. The committee will explore a route farther south along US 158 with clearer schedules, and earlier better information to the public – including employers of our seasonal work force.

The OBTF web site needs a new home. Carl Classen has worked with Aginet/Beachlink to house the site, but there is no one to maintain the site. Ben Sproul will ask the OB Visitors Bureau for help in possibly housing and maintaining this site.

The OBTF agreed to establish five committees to work on the recommendations from the ITRE Reports provided to OBTF and the public in October 2005. The committees mirror the broad categories, into which ITRE placed its recommendations.

Cheryl Byrd and Jody Crosswhite distributed a proposed committee list, including suggestions of who might serve on the various committees. Many changes and additions were made to the draft list and the Town and County representatives on the OBTF promised to let Cheryl and/or Jody know who else should be added to the various committees.

Jody then asked for volunteers to temporarily chair the committees, and dates were tentatively set for the first meetings of the committees as follows:

**TMA- TMA / Transportation Authority Development- meet Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am - Temporary Chair Cheryl Byrd**  
**Bus- Trolley Transportation- meet Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am - Temporary Chair Ralph Buxton**  
**Bike- Pedestrian Transportation- meet Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am - Chair Kermit Skinner**  
**Traffic Solution Development and Promotion- meet TBD - Temporary Chair Carl Classen**  
**Transportation Demand Management- meet Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am - Temporary Chair Ben Cahoon**

Members were reminder of the next OBTF meeting on February 23, 2006, 8:30am

The meeting was adjourned 10:20 am.

Jc & Cb