

VSC Executive Committee Minutes July 7, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees: Christine Johnson, Lorrie Liang, Steven High, Erin Duggan, Virginia Haley

Absent Nick Mavrikis

The Committee reviewed the budget implications for FY2022 because of the funding for Mote Aquarium. It was suggested that in addition to showing the budget implications, VSC should tell the stories of what the ramifications will mean such as no large international sports events.

It was also agreed that it is time to conduct one on one appointments with the BCC. This will not be about changing their minds, just so they understand the impacts through the whole tourism ecosystem in the coming years.

VSC staff should also seek industry input in the coming months about the program cuts that will have to happen in FY2022.

The Committee reviewed the results of the Board self-assessment survey. It was positive. Staff was asked to see if it was the same Board member responding “no opinion” on a number of questions. It was recommended the survey results go to the governance committee for any needed next steps.

Virginia reported that staff is still working on the FY21 operations budget. Currently there is an almost \$100,000 shortfall. Staff is working on strategies to plug the shortfall by the time the budget goes to the Finance Committee over the summer. It will go to the Board for approval in August.

Virginia reviewed the challenge that sports groups are having due to additional Covid costs. Prospect Wire is a re-occurring baseball event that was going to use Ed Smith stadium but the O's are not ready to open their facilities. The tournament is being moved to Cool Today Park and the rent for the Braves facility is very high. The committee agreed that because this is a long-standing event that should return next year that VSC staff has the ability to add \$1 per room above the normal \$5 to offset some of these one-time costs.

Virginia reviewed the lease renewal with the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce for the Visitor Center. VSC staff will be meeting with Chamber staff to review space needs. The Chamber may want to take some of the space back which is a concern for VSC. The goal is to have the renewal before the Board in August.