

# MYSTIC TOURISM WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

10:00 AM 1C and Zoom for members.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chairman, Rep. Meskers

Guest Attendees: Michael Finley, Robert Hotaling

Rep. Meskers: Went over rules of engagement re. designees and guest speakers. Guest speaker is anyone being asked to attend a meeting who is not an official Group member. Guest speakers must be announced prior to meeting for public information. A window of 24 hours is ideal so they may be properly noted in the published agenda. Tentatively Sub-Committees will meet every two weeks with full working group meeting every 5-6 weeks to share sub- committee progress and track course. Sub-Committees main purpose is to decide main points of advocacy. Tourism, Transportation (Trolley, parking structures, water taxis?), Infrastructure (Main sewers).

Next possible/ inaugural Sub-committee meetings September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 AM.

Next possible Full working group meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 AM

Discussion:

Boughton- Mentioned budgetary challenges, possible grants and local stake holder buy in from local businesses, emphasized a focus on infrastructure, would like to see a collaborative effort for smart development.

B. Middleton- Questions about the amount of tourism money generated by mystic area for the state.

Lenda- Mentioned an increase in economic impact, will send available tourism data.

Meskers- Possible primary focus being related to Hospitality and tourism, would like to see info for tax monies generated by specific tourism areas to compare to Mystic.

Boughton- ROI could be impactful and should be investigated.

Sen. Hartley- Request for OLR to provide research on LLC'S already formed re: tourism and similar areas.

Boughton-Will request data on existing examples of tourist areas for format and existing tools.

Action Items:

Next meetings.

OLM: request for state and federal examples of tourism groups and any financial funding provided by or to groups.

Lenda will send data on economic impact.

OLR: examples of other public or private organizations re. tourist areas.

Sub-committee members to provide 1-5 major obstacles or problems specific to individual sub-committee that interest you personally.

Meeting adjourned 10:58 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

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Administrator

Committee Clerk