

Pinellas County Tourist Development Council Bylaws

PREAMBLE

The purpose of the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is to advise the Board of County Commissioners as to recommendations to best promote Pinellas County tourism.

As used in these Bylaws, the term “BCC” refers to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, the term “TDC” refers to the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council, and the term “VSPC” refers to the County’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau known as Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater.

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

1. Purpose. The TDC, established per Fla. Stat. 125.0104(4)(e), advises and makes recommendations to the BCC as to VSPC programs and services as well as other tourist development tourism programs and/or expenditures which serve to promote Pinellas County as a tourism destination.
2. Number. The membership of the TDC will consist of twelve (12) voting members in accordance with Florida Law. The Vice-Chair of the BCC (unless designated as TDC Chair) will be an *ex officio* non-voting member of the TDC.
3. Eligibility. Individuals will be deemed eligible for appointment to the TDC in accordance with the specific requirements of Florida Law.
4. Appointment. The BCC will, at duly noticed public meetings, appoint the members of the TDC, including filling any and all vacancies.
5. Term. All TDC members, regardless of when appointed, will be appointed for four (4) year terms. Once appointed, if a TDC member resigns or is removed before the end of their four (4) year term, the TDC member will be deemed to have served a full term for purposes of Section 6 below. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the BCC may, in its sole discretion, elect to extend a term of any appointee’s term for up to one year.
6. Number of Terms. Each member of the TDC may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive four (4) year terms, plus any extended term(s) if applicable. A person who has reached the term limits set forth herein will not be eligible to serve on the TDC again for a minimum period of twelve (12) months from the end of their last term.

7. Resignation, Removal.

(a) Any member may resign at any time from the TDC upon written notice to the TDC Chair, who will in turn notify the BCC. The resignation will be effective as of the date of the notice of resignation.

(b) Any member who as a result of either a change in employment, elected office or appointment to another governmental or private board which results in a non-waivable ethical conflict or legal ineligibility to serve, will either voluntarily resign or be subject to removal from the TDC by the BCC.

(c) Only the BCC has the power to remove a TDC member and the BCC may, in its absolute discretion, remove any TDC member from office at any time during the TDC member's term upon written notice to such member. The notice of removal will be effective when either given in person or, if given by mail, upon deposit in the United States mail via certified mail.

8. Vacancies. Vacancies on the TDC caused by any reason whatsoever will be filled by the BCC, by appointment of a new TDC member for a four (4) year term.

9. Compensation. Unless the BCC directs otherwise, no member of the TDC will receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in serving on the TDC or any committee thereof.

10. Duties.

(a) Each new TDC appointee will, post BCC appointment, and as soon as practicable, meet with VSPC staff to review and familiarize themselves with VSPC, as the County's tourism department, as well as the County's tourism promotion and capital funding programs administered by VSPC.

(b) Each new TDC appointee will, post BCC appointment, and as soon as practicable, meet with the County Attorney's office to review these bylaws and applicable Florida laws, including but not limited to public records and sunshine law matters.

(c) Each TDC member will immediately notify VSPC staff of changes in their employment, elected office status or appointment to other boards in order to ensure their continued eligibility to serve on the TDC.

11. Limitation on Powers. The role of the TDC will be solely advisory in nature. In no event will the TDC or any of its appointees have the authority or right to control or require the BCC, its officers or County employees, to take or refrain from taking any action with respect to County tourism programs and/or services.

12. Committees. In executing and discharging its duties, the TDC may, from time to time, create one or more temporary advisory subcommittees to provide recommendations directly to the TDC.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

1. Appointment. The Chair of the BCC, or their designee, will be the TDC Chair. The TDC will appoint the Vice-Chair from the membership of the TDC. The terms of these officers will be for one (1) year and they may be reappointed.

2. Duties.

(a) TDC Chair. The chair of the TDC will preside over all meetings of the TDC.

(b) TDC Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will preside over meetings of the TDC in the absence of the Chair.

3. Compensation. Unless otherwise determined by the BCC, no officer of the TDC will receive compensation for services as an officer of the TDC.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

1. Regular Meetings. The TDC will meet at least once each quarter. Regular TDC meetings will be held at the meeting place and time designated by the TDC Chair.

2. Special Meetings. Special Meetings of the TDC such as workshops and committee meetings may, from time to time, be called by the Chair of the TDC and any such meetings will be noticed in accordance with the applicable requirements of law. These special meetings will not count for attendance provisions in Section 5 below.

3. Proxies. No member of the TDC may act by proxy.

4. Notice. Regular Meetings of the TDC may be held without additional notice to its members if the time of such meeting has been fixed by the Chair, these Bylaws, or by the TDC at the immediately preceding meeting. To the extent practicable, Special Meetings will be held upon 72 hours' notice if delivered personally by telephone or via email to each TDC member.

5. Failure to Attend. TDC members are expected to attend all regular meetings of the TDC. A TDC member who will not be attending a regular meeting must notify the office of the TDC Chair of such absence in order to be excused from the meeting. Two or more unexcused absences

from consecutive regular TDC meetings may result in BCC consideration of removal of the TDC member.

6. Open Meetings. All regular meetings and, to the extent practicable, special meetings of the TDC will be preceded by notice thereof to the public of the date, time, and place. All persons will be permitted to attend any meeting of the TDC and no person(s) will be required to register their name or to provide any other information to attend any meeting.

7. Quorum. At any meeting of the TDC, a majority of the appointed members then serving will constitute a quorum.

8. Vote. Each TDC member present at a TDC meeting will be entitled to one (1) vote. Every recommended action for BCC consideration will be done or made by a majority of the members present at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present.

ARTICLE IV

AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

Bylaws of the TDC may be adopted, amended or repealed only by the BCC. Recommendations for amendments in the Bylaws may be initiated by the TDC.

ARTICLE V

Effective Date.

These Bylaws will become effective upon adoption by the BCC and, for purposes of Section 6, Article I herein, will apply to all TDC member appointments made after the adoption of these bylaws.

Kathleen Peters,

Chair, Pinellas County Tourist Development Council
and
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Dated: _____, 2024