

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday January 20, 2015

Held at:

Gateway Information Center

23 America's Cup Ave.

Newport, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Stephan Brigidi, Greg Fater, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Len Panaggio, Rick Peckham, Barbara Pelletier, Pieter Roos , Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll, Marlen Scalzi, Katie Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Nancy Blount, Karen Oakley, Paul Rodrigues, Matt Gineo

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Alyson Adkins, Kathryn Farrington, Anna

Duffy, Tim Walsh, Evan Smith, Cathy Morrison

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill – Tiverton EDC

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for November 2014 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pieter Roos and seconded by Greg Fater. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no comments from the public.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for December 2014 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for October, 2014 was up +7.51%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +12.86%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +12.96%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through October, 2014 up +8.99%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of December 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for December, 2014 was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FACILITIES: Stephan Brigidi reported on the following:

- The committee met this morning (1/20/15). The next committee meeting is scheduled for 2/11/15.**

- **Stephan updated the board on the RI Lighthouse Association exhibition in the lobby, 2nd floor renovations, monthly savings on trash removal and electricity, replacement and removal of the RIPTA canopies, the future of the Bristol Visitors Center site and the possibility of a mobile vehicle visitor's center to be used at events and festivals. Discussion followed.**

B. GOVERNANCE REPORT: Greg Fater reported on the following:

- **There was no committee meeting held.**
- **He reviewed city guidelines on weekly rentals in Newport. Lodging and sales tax should apply and owners need to be registered for all rentals under 30 days. The city does not permit weekly rentals due to past history of neighbor complaints, sprinkler systems and other concerns. Discussion followed.**
- **Alyson Adkins attended an Open Government Forum on 1/15/15. She updated the board on access to public records and open meetings laws in RI.**

C. MARKETING: The marketing committee did not meet.

- **Laurie Stroll reported on the Volvo Ocean Race. They are going to need 100 volunteers each day of the race in May. She updated the board on the various meetings and preparation progress for the event. Gustave White Realtors is handling inquiries on home rentals during the race.**

V. PRESIDENTS REPORT: Evan Smith reported on the following:

- Evan introduced Brittany Lauro our new Social Media Coordinator to the board.
- He spoke about the Boston Olympic Bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics and what it could mean to our towns including holding some of the athletic events in RI.
- The Providence Boat Show will be held on January 23-25 at the RI Convention Center featuring many local vendors and exhibitors.
- The first quarter of 2015 is very busy for our staff.

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

A. SALES:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Sales Department.

B. MARKETING:

Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Department. The next Marketing Meeting is 1/21/15 at the Newport Harbor Hotel.

C. Cathy Morrison, Vice President of Operations updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events in Operations including planning Winterfest activities in February.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Stephan Brigidi said that the Town of Bristol Art Night has obtained 501C3 status which allows them to obtain funding through grants.

Len Panaggio noted that the hospitality industry (restaurants and hotels) are investing significant amounts on renovations to further improve business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

The next Board Meeting will be held

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 @ 12pm