

**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**DBA Discover Newport**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**12pm – Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

**Held at:**

**Gateway Information Center**

**23 America's Cup Ave.**

**Newport, RI**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:**

**Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Rick Peckham, Barbara Pelletier, Paul Rodrigues, Pieter Roos, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Marlen Scalzi, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll, Katie Wilkinson**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Greg Fater**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:**

**STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Cathy Morrison, Tim Walsh, Alyson Adkins, Anna Duffy, Andrea McHugh**

**GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Lauren Carson – RI District 75 State Rep.  
Susan Gill – Tiverton EDC**

### **I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

**The previous meeting minutes for February 2015 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Katie Wilkinson and seconded by Brewer Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

### **III. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**1) The treasurer's report for February 2015 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for December, 2014 was up +6.09%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +12.82%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +9.14%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through December, 2014 up +7.87%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of February 2015. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2015 was made by Rocky Kempenaar and seconded by**

**Duncan Maio. The motion passed unanimously.**

**2) Katie reviewed the new 2015 fiscal budget and explained new changes. She and Evan answered questions from the board regarding personnel. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously. It will go into effect on April 1, 2015.**

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **A. FACILITIES AND GOVERNANCE:**

- The committees did not meet this month.**

##### **B. MARKETING:**

- Laurie Stroll mentioned the next Marketing meeting is at 11am on March 25th, at the Jane Pickens Theatre. Brad Reed from Sail Newport will be presenting on the upcoming Volvo Ocean Race.**

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

- Evan asked Tim Walsh to update the board on the current status of the Sales department.**

**Alex Hurd is the newest Destination Expert. He will be covering VA, MD, DC, CT, DE, NH and part of MA for the Sales department.**

- Cathy Morrison briefed the board about the new mobile visitor's center van.**

- Evan will be attending a conference in Washington, DC next week**

with CEO's from the U.S. focusing on U.S. and international travel scope, visas, airline regulations, airports policies etc. Evan and Martha Sheridan from the Providence CVB will be meeting on Capitol Hill with RI senators and congressmen.

- March 31st meeting with RIPTA here to discuss new shelter designs to replace damaged tents.
- Installation of the median on the Pell Bridge underway with delays expected.

**VI. STAFF REPORTS:** None given in the interest of time.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Evan asked board members to sign and return a conflict of interest policy document handed out. This is required by our charter to have current and on file.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:** State Rep. Lauren Carson from Newport District 75 gave the board her background information. She spoke about legislation she has drafted asking the state finance committee for 4 million dollars from the state general fund to be dedicated toward tourism marketing. She would like to set up a meeting with the new commerce secretary Stephan Pryor.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.