

NEWPORT COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008

12:00 PM

HELD AT THE GATEWAY INFORMATION CENTER

3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Karen Oakley, Shirley Mello, Donna Kohler, Stephen Coyne, Laurie Stroll, Susan Samson, William Clarke, Greg Fater, Rocky Kempenaar, Brian Arnold, Charron Reed, Len Panaggio, Mark Stenning, Katie Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

Pieter Roos

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

None

STAFF PRESENT WERE:

Evan Smith, Cathy Morrison, Debbie Gatta, Tim Walsh, Kathryn Farrington, Ellen Crawley

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Buddy Croft & David Darlington – Turnpike & Bridge Authority (RITBA), Jonathan Stevens – City of Newport

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for September 9, 2008 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Shirley Mello and seconded by Katie Wilkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial report for September, 2008 was read by Mark Stenning. City Bed Tax for July, 2008 was down 5.06% and Regional Bed Tax was up 10.65% for a combined YTD bed tax of -1.23%. Mark reviewed the revenues and receivables for the month of September, 2008. A motion to accept the treasurer's report for the month of September was made by Mark Stenning and seconded by Katie Wilkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mark Stenning reported on the following:

- **The Finance Committee met on 9/30/08 to review the Auditors' Report for year ending March 31, 2008, prepared by the accounting firm of Sansiveri, Kimball & McNamee.**
- **The report pointed out that previous recommended changes for the NCCVB have already been rectified and in place. A new recommendation was to have two signatures on checks over \$5,000 for our ticket account.**
- **A motion to accept the Auditors' Report was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Katie Wilkinson. The motion passed unanimously.**

IV. EZ PASS PRESENTATION:

Buddy Croft and David Darlington with the Turnpike & Bridge Authority (RITBA) gave a presentation about the upcoming EZ Pass that will replace use of tokens to pay a toll at the Pell Bridge.

- **The program will be up & running mid-December, entirely functional mid-January.**
- **There will be no increase in the toll rates**
- **Information about the program is featured on their website, www.RITBA.org.**

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- **Representatives from Bank Newport made a courtesy call to report that the funds we have with them are fine.**
- **RIPTA will have a press conference here, at the NCCVB Information**

Center at 10:00am Wednesday, October 15th to introduce the new low sulfur diesel trolley.

- Cathy Morrison, VP of Operations & Evan attended the Newport Chamber of Commerce meeting last week about the potential substitute for the Providence/Newport Ferry that will be cut next year.**
- City/Regional bed tax is down 1.23% and considering the losses across America, he feels the numbers show that Newport did remarkably well.**
- Cathy and Evan were invited to attend a City of Newport retreat on October 1st & 2nd on Block Island. It was very informative and focused on the best of the past city plans and projections for the future.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Shirley Mello thanked the board members and stated she will no longer be on the Board of

Director's since her term with the Middletown Town Council will expire in November.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Stephen Coyne. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

The next NCCVB board meeting will be held on Monday, November

10, 2008 at the Gateway Information Center, 3rd floor meeting room.

Please mark your calendars.