

NEWPORT COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

12:00 pm

At

Vanderbilt Hall

41 Mary Street

Newport, RI 02840

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Len Panaggio, Stephen Coyne, Greg Fater, Brian Arnold, Karen Oakley, Bill Enos, William Clarke, Susan Samson, Laurie Stroll, Pieter Roos, Rocky Kempenaar, Stephen Brigidi, Charron Reed, Katie Wilkinson, Jeff McDonough, Susan Coogan.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

Ed Silveira

STAFF PRESENT WERE:

Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Deb Gatta, TimWalsh, Ellen Crawley

GUESTS PRESENT:

Member of the public, Lisa Harrison-Speidel, RI Monthly

Evan Smith thanked Alex Schweizer, Resident Manager of Vanderbilt Hall for hosting the board meeting. Alex explained the history of the building as well as the extensive remodeling.

Chairman Len Panaggio welcomed new member, Susan Coogan, representing Bristol. Board members introduced themselves. (Lisa Harrison-Speidel attended but, has not been officially confirmed to date)

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for March 9, 2010 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Greg Fater and seconded Stephen Coyne. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Clarke stated that the CVB ended the fiscal year 3/31/10 and the new fiscal year beginning 4/1/10 remains in a strong financial position. He thanked Evan and the Executive Staff for the positive results.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial report for March, 2010 was read by Treasurer Bill Clarke. City Bed Tax for January, 2010 was down 13.10% and Regional Bed

Tax was down 8.21% for a combined YTD bed tax of -11.65%. Bill reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of March, 2010. A motion to accept the treasurer's report for March was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Katie Wilkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- He was a guest speaker at CCRI in a debate opposing the LNG issue. Discussion followed.**
- Stephen Brigidi made a motion for Evan to send a letter of support of LNG opposition to RI Senator's. The motion was seconded by Bill Enos. The motion passed unanimously.**

IV. STAFF REPORTS:

A. SALES & TOURISM:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales, reported on the status of the sales department and the upcoming events.

B. MARKETING:

Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing, reported on the status of the marketing department and the upcoming events.

Susan Samson asked Evan about the America's Cup Event. He explained the effort to entice the event to Newport is ongoing and that an RFP is expected later this month. Discussion followed.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. SALES & MARKETING:

Laurie Stroll reported that the sales & marketing committee will meet to discuss renaming the Newport & Bristol CVB.

B. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

- Greg Fater distributed hard copy of the Newport & Bristol County Board member term schedule. All current terms started 9/9/09 per legislation. Discussion followed.
- The position on the new harbor ferry by Addison Closson, remains the same, officially neutral.

C. FACILITIES COMMITTEE:

Stephen Coyne reported that he, Cathy Morrison, VP of Operations, NBCCVB and Edward Lavalley, Newport City Manager, met to discuss a new lease for the Visitor's Center. Discussion followed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

The next board meeting will be held, Tuesday, May 11th at

The Gateway Information Center, 3rd Floor Meeting Room.