

**NEWPORT COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday June 9, 2010

9:00am

At

**The Gateway Visitors Center
3rd Floor Meeting Room**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Len Panaggio, Greg Fater, Karen Oakley, Bill Enos, William Clarke, Susan Samson, Laurie Stroll, Stephen Brigidi, Katie Wilkinson, Susan Coogan, Lisa Speidel, Ed Silveira, Stephen Coyne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

Brian Arnold, Rocky Kempenaar, Jeff McDonough

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

Pieter Roos, Charron Reed

STAFF PRESENT WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jordan Sampson, Intern for the NBCCVB and a student at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for May 11, 2010 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Bill Enos and seconded Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial report for May, 2010 was read by Treasurer Bill Clarke. City Bed Tax for March, 2010 was up 30.81% and Regional Bed Tax was up 15.63% for a combined YTD bed tax of 28.64%. Bill reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of May, 2010. A motion to accept the treasurer's report for May was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Katie Wilkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- He thanked the board members for consenting to change the board date due to an important conference with SATW (Society of American Travel Writers) that he attended.**
- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse met with the Middletown Economic**

Development Council

and was given an update on the local Hospitality Industry.

- Evan distributed a letter from State Representative, Amy Rice regarding her full support in bringing the aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy to Aquidneck Island. Discussion followed.**
- He gave an overview of the upcoming events for the summer season in Newport & Bristol County.**

IV. STAFF REPORTS:

A. OPERATIONS:

Cathy Morrison, Vice President of Operations, reported the Bristol Visitors Center is now open.

B. SALES & TOURISM:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales, reported sales numbers are up and is very encouraged for this coming season.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. SALES & MARKETING:

Laurie Stroll reported that the committee met June 3rd and reviewed a check list of all the CVB's Sales and Marketing Programs. The committee also discussed a possible name change for the NBCCVB.

Discussion followed.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Bill Clarke reported the Financials are currently being audited by the accounting firm of Sansivere, Kimball & Co., LLP. The committee plans to get bids from several accounting firms due to the fee increase with current firm. The accounting firm will present its findings to the Finance Committee in early July.

C. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Greg Fater reminded Evan to send notification letters of board membership renewal to the City of Newport and the Town of Middletown. Those six seats will expire in September, 2010 and Evan will seek direction from both towns.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Evan Smith commented on the recent Gaming Industry activity noting there is a bill in the Senate for potential expansion of Newport Grand and Twin Rivers, opening as fully functioning casinos. Discussion followed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Ed Silveira. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

**THE NBCCVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WILL NOT MEET DURING THE MONTH OF JULY**