

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

Tuesday October 11, 2011

12:00pm

Gateway Information Center

3rd Floor Meeting Room

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Len Panaggio, Greg Fater, Stephen Coyne, Laurie Stroll, Susan Samson, Rocky Kempenaar, Karen Oakley, Daniel Braun, Marlen Scalzi, Katie Wilkinson, Stephan Brigidi, Pieter Roos, Jeff McDonough, Jon Cohen, Lisa Speidel

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Susan Coogan, Ed Silveira

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: none

Note: The Tiverton seat is not yet appointed as of this meeting date.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Cathy Morrison, Tim Walsh, Deb Gatta, Ellen Crawley

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Terry Horsley, representing The Newport Daily Record, filmed the meeting.

Gail Alofsin, Newport Harbor Corporation.

Buddy Croft, David Darlington, Rhode Island Bridge & Turnpike

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for September 13, 2011 were reviewed.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial report for September, 2011 was read by Stephen Coyne. City Bed Tax for July, 2011 was up 3.61%, YTD. Regional Bed Tax was down 5.31%, YTD for a combined YTD Bed Tax of +1.32%. He reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of September, 2011. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for August was made by Stephen Coyne and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously.

III. STAFF REPORTS:

A. SALES & TOURISM:

Tim Walsh reported on the status and upcoming events for the Sales

Department.

B. OPERATIONS:

Cathy Morrison reported on the status and upcoming events for the Information Center.

IV. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- He informed the board members that AMEX cards have been issued to the President and the three Vice Presidents for business purposes only.**
- Evan gave a presentation of his recent trip to Plymouth, England to observe the America's Cup Trials.**
- He explained the schedule and dynamics of the America's Cup Trials and they will be held here in Newport, June 23 to July 1, 2011. Discussion followed.**

V. NEW BUSINESS:

David Darlington & Buddy Croft of the Rhode Island Turnpike & Bridge Authority made a presentation regarding the need to raise additional revenue to maintain the Newport Pell Bridge and Mt. Hope Bridge. They explained the current assessment and repairs necessary and the possibility of increasing the toll on the Newport Pell Bridge and re-establishing a toll on the Mt. Hope Bridge in Bristol. Public hearings are being held regarding this issue. Discussion followed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Jon Cohen. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.

The next board meeting will be

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

At the Gateway Information Center

3rd floor meeting room