

DISCOVER NEWPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

At the Newport Marriott

19 America's Cup Avenue

11:00am - Board Meeting

12:00pm – Joint luncheon with PWCVB Board

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Len Panaggio, Greg Fater, Stephen Coyne, Rocky Kempenaar, Karen Oakley, Marlen Scalzi, Barbara Pelletier, Stephan Brigidi, Daniel Braun, Pieter Roos, Jeff McDonough, Jon Cohen, Ed Silveira

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Lisa Speidel, Susan Samson, Katie Wilkinson, Susan Coogan, Laurie Stroll

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: none

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Cathy Morrison, Kathryn Farrington, Tim Walsh, Alyson Adkins, Ellen Crawley

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

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for March 12, 2012 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Ed Silveira. The motion passed unanimously.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial report for March, 2012 was read by Treasurer, Stephen Coyne. City Bed Tax for January, 2012 was up 6.00%, YTD. Regional Bed Tax was up 4.71%, YTD for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through January, 2012 of +5.79%. He reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of March, 2012.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for March, 2012 was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Stephen Coyne. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- The loss of former board member, June Gibbs.**
- Evan introduced the new Finance Director for Discover Newport, Alyson Adkins.**

- He stated the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012, in good shape and the staff is in preparation for the yearly audit. Evan gave recognition to the executive staff for a job well done to accomplish this.
- The new branding, Discover Newport – Nine Coastal Towns – One Big Experience from the former Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau, was launched Friday April 6th. Evan stated it will take time for a full conversion of the name and emphasized that the name was changed, not the programming. He also emphasized that the company is still fully committed to promoting the 9 towns of Newport and Bristol County.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FACILITIES:

Stephen Coyne the Facilities Committee met and reported on the following:

- The committee discussed charging a commission fee for reservations made from the center but, decided not to implement the idea this year.
- A new truck has been purchased to replace the one lost in an accident several months ago.
- Stephen suggested making improvements on the first floor of the information center. He would like to invest funds to replace the carpeting. Ed Silveira made a motion to approve the amount, not to exceed \$25k and to get several bids on this project. Stephen Bridigi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. GOVERNANCE:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

- **There will be a hearing at the State House regarding the repeal of the tour tax on Wednesday, April 11th. He will attend to testify.**

Discussion followed.

- **Stephan Brigidi made a motion to request funds in the amount of \$1500 to support the opposition of 2% increase of the food & beverage tax. The motion was seconded by Ed Silveira. The motion passed unanimously.**

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Evan Smith presented an article from the Providence Journal dated April 10th. The editorial was very negative towards Middletown and the City of Newport. Discussion followed.**

- **Rocky Kempenaar stated that his hotel Howard Johnson's in Middletown, was rated the #1 hotel nationally for guest satisfaction.**

- **Evan stated the Governor's Luncheon and the board meeting for May 8th are scheduled for the same day. The board agreed to move the next board meeting to May 15th at 12 noon.**

- **Evan proposed to the board that the board meeting dates be moved from the second Tuesday of the month to the third Tuesday of the month, giving the staff more time to prepare the financial statements. A vote will be taken at next month's meeting to move the board meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Silveira and seconded by Karen

Oakley. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm. The board joined the PWCVB for lunch.

**The next board meeting will be
Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 12:00pm
At Blithewold Mansion
101 Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02819**