

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday May 20, 2014

Held at:

The Norman Bird Sanctuary

583 Third Beach Road

Middletown, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:06pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Duncan Maio, Matt Gineo, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Marlin Scalzi, Kathleen Seguin, Karen Oakley, Laurie Stroll, Greg Fater, Stephan Brigidi, Rocky Kempenaar, Rusty Sallee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Pieter Roos, Nancy Blount, Katie Wilkinson, Rick Peckham

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Cathy Morrison, Alyson Adkins, Anna Duffy

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill of the Tiverton EDC

NOTE: A brief presentation on the Farmhouse and the Norman Bird Sanctuary was made by Natasha Richardson, Executive Director. A tour of facility by interested board members followed the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for April, 2014 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

• The treasurer's report for March 2014 was read for Katie Wilkinson by Alyson Adkins. City Bed Tax for February, 2014 was up +16.65, YTD. Regional Bed Tax was down -15.78, YTD. Bristol Bed Tax was up +73.80%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through February, 2014 up +8.66%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of April 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for March, 2014 was made by Duncan Maio and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Evan Smith reported on the following:

• Evan congratulated board member Brewer Rowe on being named "Man of the Year" by the Rhode Island Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for his fundraising efforts to fund cancer research. He also congratulated board member Kathleen Seguin on

being named a 2014 Business Women Achievement Honoree by the Providence Business News. Board member Laurie Stroll was recently honored in Boston on April 29th by her alma mater as a UMASS Distinguished Alumni.

- Evan emailed information to the board today on Providence Mayor Tavares vision for future tourism in the state. The RI Hospitality and Tourism Association will be hosting a gubernatorial debate at the Providence Convention Center on August 20th from 2-4pm. There will be three panelists from the U.S. Travel Association, the National Restaurant Association and the American Hotel and Motel Association asking questions of the candidates and their vision for tourism in the state. Discussion followed.

- The Newport to PVD airport run has been taken over by Orange Cab Co. Still working on a connection from Kingston to Newport run from the Amtrak station. Dattco Bus Co. has reached out to Evan regarding possible non-stop run from NYC to Newport.

- The restoration work on Cliff Walk which was due to be completed by mid-June is taking longer than expected and may keep parts of the walk closed until mid-July. The section between Ruggles and Marine Avenues is supposed to be fully open on June 13th.

- UBER taxi service has moved into Newport. It is used in over 50 U.S. cities. New technology using a phone app, a signal is sent to the closest driver to your location, there is no cash exchanged, phone calculates the rate. No PUC license is required. Discussion followed.

- Evan ran a survey of the board. Investor Joe Paolino has asked for permission to speak to the board about his offer to purchase Newport

Grand allowing table games and his vision for the property. The consensus was that the board would like to hear his proposal at the June 17th board meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FACILITIES:

Stephan Brigidi reported on the following:

- There was not a committee meeting.**
- The Bristol Visitor's Center is open featuring a July 4th exhibit.**
- Stephan asked Cathy Morrison to update the board on the installation of three new windows in the lobby, WIFI availability for the public in the visitor's center and rental of the gift shop by BeDazzled.**

B. MARKETING:

Laurie Stroll reported on the following:

- The next marketing meeting will be held at the Yachting Center on Wednesday, May 28rd at 11am.**
- Program by Professional Development speaker Ms. Mel Robbins was a huge success on May 15th at Rosecliff.**

C. GOVERNANCE:

Greg Fater reported on the following:

- Greg reported on transportation and tolling on the legislative level. Discussion followed.**

V. STAFF REPORTS:

A. SALES:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales was absent on a trip to Japan with

the Newport delegation. Sales team was traveling to Hartford and Mystic this week.

B. MARKETING:

Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Department. Vinnie Marcaccio has left his position as Marketing Coordinator as of May 16th to pursue his masters degree.

C. OPERATIONS:

Cathy Morrison, Vice President of Operations updated the Board on the current status of the Visitors Center and upcoming events.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:09pm. A tour of the Farmhouse followed.

The next Board Meeting will be held

Tuesday, June 17th @ 12pm

at The Lobster Pot

119 Hope Street

Bristol, RI