

**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**DBA Discover Newport**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**12pm – Tuesday June 17, 2014**

**Held at:**

**The Lobster Pot**

**119 Hope St.**

**Bristol, RI**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**The meeting was called to order at 12:18pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:**

**Nancy Blount, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Matt Gineo, Brewer Rowe, Marlin Scalzi, Kathleen Seguin, Karen Oakley, Laurie Stroll, Greg Fater, Stephan Brigidi, Rocky Kempenaar, Rusty Sallee, Rick Peckham, Pieter Roos, Katie Wilkinson**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Duncan Maio**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Rodrigues**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill of the Tiverton EDC**

**NOTE: Stephan Brigidi, the Bristol board appointee welcomed fellow board members and gave a brief summary of the events taking place in Bristol leading up to and including the July 4th and various other summer festivities in town. He introduced our host Jeff Hirsh from The Lobster Pot.**

**I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

**The previous meeting minutes for May, 2014 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.**

**II. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**• The treasurer's report for May 2014 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for March, 2014 was down-5.94%, YTD. Regional Bed Tax was down -5.85%, YTD. Bristol Bed Tax was up +37.59%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through March 2014 down -5.24%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of May 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for March, 2014 was made by Len Panaggio and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.**

**• The committee met on 6/11/14. Website advertising, visitor center advertising panels, ticket commissions and the new tenant in the lobby are all doing well.**

### **III. PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

**Evan Smith reported on the following:**

- Evan discussed the 1841 whaling vessel Charles W. Morgan's 38th voyage from Mystic, CT and docking at Ft. Adams this week then on to Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod. It is the oldest whaling ship in the country and has been fully restored.**
- The Spirit of Bermuda tall ship is in Newport for the 49th Newport to Bermuda Race. The Bermuda Tourism Association has a display set up in the visitor's center lobby this week.**
- The 2014 CVS Caremark Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held at the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington June 22-24. Twenty PGA tour professionals compete to generate funds for nonprofit organizations which provide a range of programs servicing children and families across Southeastern New England.**
- There is a possibility that the board may be able to meet for a fall meeting aboard a cruise ship visiting the harbor. Evan will advise if this is confirmed by mid-July.**
- UBER and LIFT car services have begun operation in Newport. UBER is currently used in over 50 U.S. cities. New technology uses a phone app, a signal is sent to the closest driver to your location, there is no cash exchanged, the phone calculates the rate. No PUC license is required. Discussion followed.**
- Investor Joe Paolino cancelled his appointment to speak to the board about his offer to purchase Newport Grand at today's meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Tim O'Reilly from The Newport Yachting Center has requested to speak before the board at the August 19th**

meeting. Discussion followed.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **A. FACILITIES:**

Stephan Brigidi reported on the following:

- There was not a committee meeting. There will be a meeting prior to the August board meeting.
- Stephan went over the July 4th festivities happening in Bristol.

##### **B. MARKETING:**

Laurie Stroll reported on the following:

- There was not a committee meeting.
- The next marketing meeting will be held at Perrotti Park aboard the Block Island Ferry on Wednesday, June 18th at 11am. Monthly meetings will resume after the summer on September 17th.
- The Alvimedica CEO will host a boat naming event at the Newport Shipyard on 6/28/14 at 3pm. Skipper Charlie Enright and Mark Towill are the only confirmed crew for Team Alvimedica so far.
- Laurie updated the board on the 2015 Volvo Ocean race. Major hotels in the area are sold out. Most sponsor clients are now booking lodging in Providence.

##### **C. GOVERNANCE:**

Greg Fater reported on the following:

- Greg mentioned that six of the municipal board appointments are up for renewal in September. Evan will be contacting Jamestown, Little Compton, Warren, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Bristol.

#### **D. FINANCE:**

**Katie Wilkinson reported on the following:**

- Budget committee met on 6/11/14.**
- The accounting firm of Sansiveri, Kimball & Co. will present the results of the audit on July 9th. 2pm to the Finance committee.**

#### **V. STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **A. SALES:**

**Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the board on the current status and upcoming events in the Sales Department. He briefed the board on the AIBTM trade show in FL.**

##### **B. MARKETING:**

**Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Department. A Woody Allen movie is being filmed at various sites in Newport and Providence this summer.**

##### **C. OPERATIONS:**

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

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Stephan Brigidi withdrew his proposal to the board for municipal funds.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:14pm.**

**The next Board Meeting will be held  
Tuesday, August 19th @ 12pm**