

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Greg Fater, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Rick Peckham, Barbara Pelletier, Pieter Roos , Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Marlin Scalzi, Kathleen Seguin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Len Panaggio, Stephan Brigidi, Paul Rodrigues

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill of the Tiverton EDC, Tim O'Reilly from Newport Harbor Corporation,
Kiki McMahan and David Wixted from CCACG.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim O'Reilly, Chairman of the Newport Harbor Corporation presented his opposition to the proposed expansion of table games at Newport Grand Casino and the effects on local businesses and hospitality industry in the area. Mr. O' Reilly asked the board to take a stand in opposition to this plan.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for July 2014 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for May, 2014 was up +2.61%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +7.23%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was down -14.22%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through May, 2014 up +3.37%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of July 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for July, 2014 was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Greg Fater. The motion passed unanimously.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MARKETING – Laurie Stroll made a presentation to the board explaining the many benefits of purchasing SimpleView and explained the need for this technology upgrade from our present system. Discussion followed. A motion to support this expenditure

was made by Karen Oakley and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed.

FACILITIES: Evan Smith reported in Stephan Brigidi's absence. The committee met on July 30th.

- The outside canvas covering at the visitor's center damaged by Hurricane Sandy will be replaced by solid roofing. RIPTA will be sending out RFP's for the design this fall. Construction bids will be sent out in March. July 4th is the target date for completion of this project.
- There will be two new outdoor welcome signs installed next week at the visitor's center.

GOVERNANCE:

- Greg Fater reported that the following towns have contacted us regarding the reappointment of their respective board appointees: Tiverton – Barbara Pelletier, Barrington – Duncan Maio, and Little Compton – Rick Peckham. We are waiting to hear back from Bristol, Jamestown and Portsmouth.
- He reported that there is no news on the bill introduced by the general assembly relating to State Affairs and Government – Quasi-Public Corporations Accountability and Transparency Act. Greg will get more information.

IV. PRESIDENTS REPORT: Evan Smith reported on the following:

- A gubernatorial debate will be at the RI Convention Center on 8/20/14 at 2pm focusing on the candidate's tourism viewpoints. He

suggested anyone available to attend should go to this forum.

- **The U.S.S. Saratoga is leaving Newport for salvage in Texas on 8/20/14 at 10am.**
- **Middletown is having discussions with the Navy regarding acquisition the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy which was decommissioned in 2007. On 9/23/14 the Princess Cruise line ship Ruby Princess will be in port. The board has been invited for lunch and to tour the ship. RSVP's are due by 9/7/14.**

V. STAFF REPORTS: In the interest of time – no reports given.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **CCACG is scheduled to make a presentation to the board at our 10/21/14 meeting.**
- **Joe Paolino was scheduled to speak at the June and September meetings but cancelled. He would like to speak at the October meeting now. Discussion followed. The board decided to allow both the CCACG and Mr. Paolino to speak briefly in October on the proposal of table games at Newport Grand.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Greg Fater congratulated Evan Smith on being a member of the board of directors for DMAI (Destination Marketing Association International).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.