

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday September 16, 2014

Held at:

The Gateway Information Center

3rd Floor Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Stephan Brigidi, Nancy Blount, Greg Fater, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Pieter Roos , Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Rick Peckham, Paul Rodrigues, Matt Gineo, Marlen Scalzi, Katie Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Alyson Adkins, Anna Duffy, Tim Walsh,

Andrea McHugh, Cathy Morrison

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill of the Tiverton EDC

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Gill from the Tiverton EDC informed the board of a Tiverton Planning Board public meeting on 9/23 at 7pm to be held at Tiverton, H.S., discussing the “Tiverton Crossing” development proposal by the Carpionato Group of Johnston, RI. The proposed complex will be comprised of 18 mixed-use buildings with a hotel, apartments, restaurants, 150,000 sq.ft. of offices and 385,000 sq.ft. of shops on 66 acres between; Main, Fish, Souza Roads and Rte. 24.

III. TREASURER’S REPORT:

The treasurer’s report for August 2014 was read by Alyson Adkins for Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for June,2014 was down -3.00%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +14.91%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +14.81%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through June, 2014 up +1.61%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of August 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report for August,

2014 was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES: Stephan Brigidi's reported that the committee met earlier today (9/16/14).

- The number of visitors to the Bristol visitors' center remains steady at approximately 5000 per year. Newport had 500 less than this time 2013.**
- RIPTA steel removal project and replacing the canvas is currently out to bid. The city will put in 10% of the cost. It is hopeful this will begin in the spring of 2015 and be completed by July 4th. Roof painting was not applied to the grant.**
- Stephan notified the board of a complaint made to the governor's office by a local tour operator. Cathy Morrison answered questions from the Board and discussion followed.**

MARKETING: The marketing committee did not meet.

- Laurie Stroll reported that Evan Smith is the chair of the local marketing committee for the Volvo race. The Volvo Ocean Race Newport 20 page insert which went into Sailing World magazine was handed to the board. An overrun of same was printed for distribution and marketing purposes. The first leg of the race begins 10/11/14 in Spain. Sponsorship proposals are in negotiation. The Spanish team has not announced who their sponsor is. She reviewed various logistics of providing necessary services including; land and water shuttles, staffing, tents, catering, etc.**

- **The Marriott is closing for renovations on 11/23/14 and reopening 4/1/15.**

V. STAFF REPORTS:

- **Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Sales Department.**
- **Andrea McHugh, Marketing Communications Manager updated the board for Kathryn Farrington on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Dept.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Stephan Brigidi spoke about the new 70 room hotel which will be built on Gooding Ave. in Bristol by LaFrance Hospitality. The DEM has approved the zoning. This new lodging doubles the current Bristol lodging occupancy.**
- **Barbara Pelletier informed the Board that a new restaurant, The Red Dory will be located on Main Road in Tiverton at the former Mykonos Restaurant location.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:12pm.