

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday October 21, 2014

Held at:

The Hotel Viking

1 Bellevue Ave.

Newport, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Nancy Blount, Paul Rodrigues

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill, Liz Taber, Dawn Euer, Michael Osean, Joe Moore, Jackie Paolino, Joseph R. Paolino Jr., David Preston

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for September, 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: There were no comments from the public.

III. TABLE GAMES PROPOSAL: Invited guests presented their respective opinions on the expansion of gaming at Newport Grand.

- Joseph R. Paolino Jr., one of three developers seeking to buy Newport Grand and turn it into a full-scale casino with table games presented the board his plans for the property. The sale is contingent upon voter approval of the table game referendum on the November 4th ballot. Mr. Paolino answered questions from the board after his presentation.**

- Liz Taber representing CCACG (Concerned Citizens About Casino**

Gambling) spoke in opposition to the expansion of table games and how it will affect the community and economy of Newport. Ms. Taber answered questions from the board following her presentation.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for September 2014 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for July, 2014 was up +4.23%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +10.53%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up 3.70%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through July, 2014 up +5.88%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of September 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for September, 2014 was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Rick Peckham. The motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FACILITIES: Stephan Brigidi reported that the committee did not meet this month.

Stephan informed the board of an incident during Oktoberfest weekend - 10/18-10/19. Several hired school buses with students from Bryant College and URI were dropped off at the visitors' center and became extremely disruptive to both tourists and staff. Cathy Morrison gave details of what transpired. The possibility of hiring a uniformed police detail next year and the day of the St. Patrick's Day parade to maintain decorum. Discussion followed.

MARKETING: The marketing committee did not meet.

Laurie Stroll reported about her trip to Spain in October for the start of the first leg of the Volvo Ocean Race. She detailed the ceremonies, program of events, airport signage, sponsors and entertainment provided in Alicante, Spain.

-Newport Restaurant Week is November 7-16 with 56 restaurants participating.

VI. STAFF REPORTS: In the interest of time no staff reports were given.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Stephan Brigidi spoke about Question 5 on the 11/4/14 ballot which provides grants for the Arts and cultural groups. Pieter Roos mentioned the Question 5 referendum also includes restoration funds for historic buildings across the state of RI.

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