

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday November 19, 2014

Held at:

Brix Restaurant

909 E. Main Road

Middletown, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:11pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Greg Fater, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Paul Rodrigues, Pieter Roos, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll, Matt Gineo, Marlen Scalzi, Katie Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Rocky Kempenaar

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: Rick Peckham

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill – Tiverton EDC

NOTE: Chairman Len Penaggio introduced our host John Nunes from Brix Restaurant/ Newport Vineyards.

Mr. Nunes gave a brief overview of the family history of the property including the renovations and his future

plans for expansions and events. A tour of the facility for interested board members followed the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no comments from the public.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for October 2014 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for October, 2014 was up +2.73%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +10.93%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up 9.86%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through August, 2014 up +5.01%. She

reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of September 2014. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for October, 2014 was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

GOVERNANCE REPORT: Greg Fater reported that the committee met on 11/17/14.

He reviewed board term limits, residency requirements and conflict of interest disclosures regarding personal and/or professional potential conflicts on issues the board votes on. Discussion followed.

MARKETING: The marketing committee did not meet.

Laurie Stroll reported the Volvo Ocean Race. Leg 2 starts 11/19/14 sailing from Cape Town to Abu Dhabi.

She brought the board up to date on sponsorships and involvement of local schools following the race.

V. PRESIDENTS REPORT:

- Evan Smith spoke about the recent election results in Newport and

state wide. He will reach out to the governor and newly elected officials on the value of regional tourism districts and their efforts to promote tourism in RI.

- The Marriott is closed for major renovations for the next 5 months; the Audrain vintage car museum on Bellevue Ave is now open and the International Tennis Hall of Fame expansion is underway.

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

A. SALES:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Sales Department.

B. MARKETING:

Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Department.

C. Cathy Morrison, Vice President of Operations updated the Board on the current status and upcoming events in Operations including hotel reservation numbers, Trip Advisor reviews and the Bristol Visitors Center.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Brewer Rowe spoke with the board about the new indoor tennis courts due to be completed by February 2015 and other new construction at the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:06pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 @ 12pm**