

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

**DBA Discover Newport**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**12pm – Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

**Held at:**

**Hampton Inns and Suites**

**348 West Main Road**

**Middletown, RI**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:**

**Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio,**

**Barbara Pelletier, Pieter Roos, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Marlen Scalzi, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Paul Rodrigues,**

**Rick Peckham**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:**

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

**GUESTS PRESENT WERE:**

**NOTE:** Evan Smith introduced and thanked Rocky Kempenaar for hosting us at the Hampton Inns & Suites. Rocky spoke about the hotels and offered the board members a tour after the meeting.

**I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

The previous meeting minutes for March 2015 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kathleen Seguin and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Evan Smith reported for Alyson Adkins that our fiscal year ended on 3/31/15. There is no financial report for March as we are keeping the year open to ensure all expenses are recorded in the proper period. The audit will be during the 3rd week of

**May.**

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

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

- **The committee met on 3/24/15.**
- **Stephan Brigidi spoke about the future of the Bristol Visitor's Center at the present location in the Burnside Building and staffing.**
- **He reported that RIPTA is still in the design phase as far as suitable replacement for the canvas shelter coverage at the Gateway Center. This will take 3 additional months.**
- **The new mobile visitor's center van has arrived and the board was invited to see it parked outside at the end of the meeting.**

##### **B. GOVERNANCE:**

- **Greg Fater deferred to Evan who brought the board up to date on the Governor's proposed budget in reference to tourism and hospitality in the six districts. He reported on the house finance committee meeting he attended with Karen Oakley on April 16th at the State House. Evan has spoken with State Sen. Teresa Paiva Weed regarding support of the new budget. The board would like further definition. Discussion followed.**

##### **C. MARKETING:**

- **Laurie Stroll reported that the Volvo Ocean Race is headed to**

**Newport from Brazil with 6 teams left. She reviewed a schedule of dates and events taking place while the teams are in port.**

**V. PRESIDENTS REPORT: Evan Smith reported on the following:**

- Evan discussed the Governor's budget and refunding of the state tourism office. He reviewed the 5% bed tax breakdown chart and answered questions from the board. Discussion followed.**

**VI. STAFF REPORTS: None given in the interest of time.**

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.**

**The next Board Meeting will be held  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 @ 12pm**