

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Held at:

Gateway Information Center

23 America's Cup Ave

Newport, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:07pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

There is not a Portsmouth representative on the board due to the resignation of Katie Wilkinson.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, 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, Stephan Brigidi

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Susan Gill – Tiverton EDC

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for the April 21st and May 13th meetings were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Greg Fater 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 March and April 2015 was read by Evan Smith. Alyson Adkins has been working on closing our fiscal books which ended on 3/31/15.

City Bed Tax for January, 2015 was up +6.37%, YTD. Regional Bed Tax was up +12.83%, YTD. Bristol Bed Tax was up +9.08%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax 8.08%, through January 2015 which closes out our fiscal year 2015 up +8.08%. He reviewed the revenue and expenses for the month of March 2015.

City Bed Tax for February, 2015 was down -22.01% YTD. Regional

Bed Tax was up +5.26%, YTD. Bristol Bed Tax was down -25.77%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax -16.35%. Evan explained that performance reports showed an increase for February that contradicts the bed tax decline. He believes this is due to delinquent payments by local lodging properties. He reviewed the revenue and expenses for the month of April 2015, the first month of our fiscal year 2016. A motion to accept the Treasurer's reports for March and April 2015 was made by Pieter Roos and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. GOVERNANCE:

- Commerce Secretary Stephan Pryor cancelled his appointment to speak to the board today due to a scheduling conflict.**

B. MARKETING:

- Laurie Stroll reported that the Volvo Ocean Race brought in over 125,000 people to RI. The state house was lit up in blue to honor Volvo on the night of water fire in Providence. She stated that the CEO of Volvo was very happy with the warm reception received and events at Ft. Adams.**

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

- Condor Airlines will begin service from Frankfurt, Germany to T.F. Green Airport on 6/18.**

- **Cabo Verde Airlines has begun non-stop service from PVD to Portugal.**
- **El Al Airlines from Israel has begun service from Tel Aviv to Boston. A group of journalists will visit the Touro Synagogue.**

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Susan Gill from the Tiverton EDC brought the board up to date on the proposed Tiverton Crossing development by the Carpionato Group.**
- **Follow-up discussion from the 5/15 meeting regarding Discover Newport's position on the Governor's proposed 2015/2016 budget as it relates to funding a state tourism office, tourism in our municipalities and the state of RI. It was decided that an invitation would be extended to state legislators representing our regions to an information session at the Gateway Center to articulate our concerns before the state budget is voted on.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Len Panaggio asked for nominations for Treasurer to replace Katie Wilkinson who recently resigned from the board. Discussion followed. A motion to appoint Brewer Rowe was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Nancy Blount. The motion to appoint Brewer as Treasurer passed unanimously and will go into effect immediately.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Fater and seconded by Len Panaggio. The meeting adjourned at 1:31pm.

The next Board Meeting will be held

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 @ 12pm