

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Held at:

Gateway Information Center

23 America's Cup Ave.

Newport, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Matt Gineo, Pieter Roos, Marlen Scalzi, Rick Peckham

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE:

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for January 2015 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Katie Wilkinson and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.

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

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for January 2015 was read by Katie Wilkinson. City Bed Tax for November, 2014 was up +6.88%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +12.67%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +10.47%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through November, 2014 up +8.44%. She reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of January 2015. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2015 was made by Rocky Kempenaar and seconded by Barbara Pelletier. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FACILITIES: Stephan Brigidi reported on the following:

- The committee did not meet.

- **Stephan updated the board on the status of the Bristol Visitors Center. Evan Smith and Cathy Morrison met with the Bristol Town Manager Tony Teixeira. Discussion followed.**

B. GOVERNANCE REPORT: Greg Fater reported on the following:

- **Greg Fater and Len Panaggio spoke about a proposal to raise the minimum wage of food servers to \$9.00 per hour from \$2.89 and the affect it would have on restaurants.**

- **Newport District 75 - State Rep. Lauren Carson has introduced bill HB5333 - which relates the distribution of hotel tax for the city of Newport (Increases the city of Newport's share of the hotels tax revenue generated by hotels located in the city of Newport.)**

C. MARKETING: The marketing committee did not meet.

Laurie Stroll reported on the Volvo Ocean Race. There is going to be an 8:30 breakfast meeting for on March 3rd at the Newport Harbor Hotel to involve retailers in the Volvo Race VIP program and a window decorating contest for shops.

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

- **Evan asked each of the board members representing the 9**

communities to give a brief overview of their successes, opportunities and top challenges regarding tourism. Evan reported on Little Compton in Rick Peckham's absence.

- Evan reviewed the suggested investment plan hand out. See Appendix A. Discussion followed. A motion to accept the expenditures was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Nancy Blount. The motion passed unanimously. Greg Fater abstained.

- A Lodging Tax Breakdown handout was distributed. Discussion followed.

- The Marriott is due to reopen on April 6th. Staff is concerned about construction delays.

- The world's largest hotel search site, Trivago.com, recently compiled a list of America's Top 50 Cities for quality accommodation and Newport, Rhode Island is ranked in the top 20 at #17.

- Discover Newport received an award on February 22nd from the Rhode Island Film Commission for collaboration with film industries coming to the state to make movies.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Kathryn Farrington mentioned the Yankee Magazine spread which featured Bristol, Jamestown, Newport and Narragansett Bay.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.

The next Board Meeting will be held

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 @ 12pm

Appendix A

New Mobile Visitors Center	\$ 35,000
Trade&#8208;in and purchase new client van	20,000
Advertising and sponsorships	75,000
Additional tradeshow	10,000
One&#8208;time pension fund contribution	15,000
Computers	30,000
Total:	\$ 185,000

Any remaining funds would be invested in the reserve/capital improvement fund.