

Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau

DBA Discover Newport

Board of Directors Meeting

12pm – Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Held at:

Audrain Auto Museum

222 Bellevue Ave.

Newport, RI

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Keith Chouinard, Greg Fater, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Paul Rodrigues, Pieter Roos, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Laurie Stroll

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

Rick Peckham, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Liz McDonald – Hilltop Inn

NOTE: Chairman Len Penaggio introduced our host Crystle Welch – Assistant to the Director of Audrain Automobile Museum. She gave a brief overview of the property including renovations, current/future exhibits and corporate events. A tour of the museum for interested board members followed the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for August 2015 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 August 2015 was read by Treasurer Brewer Rowe. City Bed Tax through June, 2015 was up +12.70%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +20.36%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was down -1.04%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through June, 2015 up +14.59%. Brewer reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of August 2015. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for August 2015 was made by Karen Oakley and seconded by Pieter Roos. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. GOVERNANCE:

- Greg Fater remarked on his tenure on the board since today is his last board meeting as well as well as Laurie Stroll, Pieter Roos who also made parting remarks on leaving the board. Evan Smith thanked them for their involvement and contributions to our organization.**
- Greg made a motion to appoint Matt Plumb from Brick Alley Pub, John Edick from Blackstone Catering and Brad Read from Sail Newport to fill the three positions. The motion passed unanimously. The board introduced themselves and the position they represent on the board to the three new appointees.**

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

- Evan presented a report showing the record setting pace for total lodging and total food and beverage revenue. He attributes this to a combination of contributing factors including; the strength of the national economy, low gas prices, great weather and strong marketing efforts by all destination partners. All nine destinations are trending up. Area beaches are setting all time records for admission/attendance.**
- Discover Newport is receiving the 2015 Anchor Award from the RI Marine Trade Association Award at the Boat Show breakfast on 9/19 for outstanding advocacy in the promotion of the RI Marine Industry leading up to and during the Volvo Ocean Race.**
- Evan gave an overview of the tourism transition after Labor Day including: corporate and association meeting's market, cruise ships and group motor coach charters. European market/international tourists tend to travel to New England during the fall season. Discussion followed.**
- A public workshop is planned for 10/15 at 6:30pm at the Gateway Center by Alliance for a Livable Newport to solicit resident feedback on the design of the proposed renovations for the Gateway Center shelters. The Newport City Council approved of the expenditure of 10% of the cost of renovations and RIPTA applied for and received 90% funding through a grant by the federal government due to Hurricane Sandy.**

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. Newport Restaurant Week is 11/6 - 11/15.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The board thanked Laurie, Pieter and Greg for their service on the board of directors.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Vacancies on the governance, marketing and finance committees need to be filled by the three new board members.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

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