

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

**DBA Discover Newport**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**12pm – Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

**Held at:**

**Brick Alley Pub**

**140 Thames St.**

**Newport, RI**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

**The meeting was called to order at 12:09pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:**

**Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Keith Chouinard, Matt Gineo, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Rick Peckham, Barbara Pelletier, Matt Plumb, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: John Edick, Rocky Kempenaar, Rusty Sallee**

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

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

**GUESTS PRESENT WERE: NONE**

**I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments from the public.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The treasurer's report for December 2015 was read by Treasurer Brewer Rowe. He explained the new graph format addition to the

monthly report. City Bed Tax through October, 2015 was up +8.24%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +12.36%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +1.73%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through October, 2015 up +9.27%. Brewer reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of December 2015. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for December 2015 was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Barbara Pelletier. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**FACILITIES:** Stephan Brigidi reported the facilities committee met on 1/19/16. Our current lease of the Gateway Center is up in March 2016. A letter of intent to stay at the 23 America's Cup address was sent to the City of Newport.

The Gateway Center retail tenant, BeDazzled asked to extend their space in the lobby. Accommodations are being made for them to relocate to another area to provide the additional space needed.

Hertz car rental has requested renting the space where the retail shop is now located.

The Bristol VC will cease to be staffed by Discover Newport due to the low number of visitors. A meeting with the town manager will be scheduled in the near future to offer our support in other ways.

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

- **Evan gave an overview of 2015. Our fiscal year ends on 3/31/16. We are now working on our 2016/2017 budget.**
- **The new Commerce RI Chief Marketing Officer is Betsy Wall, former Travel Director in Massachusetts. She will be in charge of marketing and tourism for the state.**
- **HAVAS PR has filmed an infomercial on RI tourism which will be shown on CNN and American Airlines flights.**
- **New Property Developments: Cambria Suites is building a new hotel in Middletown at the former Sea View Inn location. There will be 133 rooms and 2 ballrooms with a 450 person capacity in each. The Atlantic Beach Club has been sold and will reopen in September after renovations as a wedding venue. The Stone House has been sold in Little Compton and is working with the town on a noise ordinance after 7pm.**

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

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Kathleen Seguin has sold her B&B property in Bristol and will be closing on a new property located at 51 Church St. also in Bristol on 3/4/16.
- Nancy Parker Wilson and Greenvale Vineyards were mentioned in an article recently published in Food and Wine Magazine.
- Keith Chouinard informed the board the Hotel Viking lobby is currently undergoing renovation and construction will be completed by mid-March.
- Evan asked Alyson Adkins to advise the board about the renewal of the two current Angell pension plans. Discussion followed. The board asked Alyson to find out if any specific changes have been made to the plans by Angell. Brewer made a motion to accept, pending confirmation that no changes have been made to the plans. The motion was seconded by Len Panaggio. The motion passed pending Alyson's findings.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.**

**The next Board Meeting will be held  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 @ 12pm  
Gateway Center  
23 America's Cup Ave.  
Newport, RI**