

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

March 8, 2016

9am Town Hall

Present: Steve, John, Julie, Brad, Zena, Logan and Jessica.

Absent: Sven

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Zena

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

- **Correspondence:**

- o Jessica passed around the Glass floats Flyer that she had prepared.

- **Magazine/AAA Show:** Jessica reported that the new magazine was out on deadline and she passed copies around to members. She updated the board on the AAA Travel Show which she had attended the previous weekend and said that it was very well attended. Jessica mentioned that people seemed disappointed that there would not be a Spring Taste of BI. John commented that he was very disappointed that the Chamber of Commerce chose to drop the event.

- **Hotel Tax:** November was slightly down over the previous December. The calendar year ended 11.5% up over CY 2014. FY 15/16 is up 11% through December reported in.
- Jessica reported that she met with the State office of Tourism and other regional directors and has seen the State's new branding campaign. The state media buy is set to go live on April 15.
- Jessica let the board know that the State Commission to Study Tourism has been extended through December 2016, and that the next meeting would be this Thursday.
- **RIAC Update:** Jessica let the board know that she had organized another meeting with RIAC on BI for March 24th. This is a follow up to the last meeting and a chance to meet the interim CEO of RIAC. Jessica said that anyone who wished to attend should contact her to get on the list as it is a closed meeting.
- Jessica updated the board on the new taxi rates that would take effect in 2016. She passed around a printout with the new rate sheet. This was a follow up from the discussion of the last meeting.

Approve Minutes:

February 9, 2016: John made a motion to approve and Logan seconded. All approved.

Old Business:

A) Request from Eben Horton: John made a motion to fund the Glass

Float Project 2016 with the requested amount of \$3000. Brad seconded and all approved.

New Business:

A) High Speed Ferry Rate Change: Steve asked to put this on the agenda and he explained that he was looking for more information on the topic. Town Manager Dodge was in the audience and she explained that the HS Ferry Rate was increasing one dollar each way, that the town didn't have an issue with that, that the PUC had given it a favorable ruling, and some other information. There was no action taken.

Town Manager Dodge passed around copies of the Town preliminary Budget for the Tourism Council to look at.

Next Meeting is March 22nd at 11am.

Accounts Payable:

Brad made a motion to pay the bills. Zena seconded and all approved.

9:40: Logan made a motion to adjourn. Brad seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: March 22, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council