

Block Island Tourism Council

Minutes

June 14, 2016

9am Town Hall

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

Absent: Brad, Logan and Sven

Meeting called to order at 9:06 am by Zena

Public Comment: None

Director's Report:

- **Correspondence:**

- o Letter of funding request for Barbershop Quartet/Mary D.

- **Hotel Tax February and March:** Jessica reported that February was up slightly and March was way up from February and March 2015.

- **Budget:** Jessica shared an updated budget.

- **Director Updates:**

- o **State Budget:** Jessica let the board know that a bill was introduced and adopted into the State Budget that would give the Regional Tourism Divisions 47% of the 5% for one year only. At the end of June 2017 we will return to the 42% of the 5%.

- o Commerce Corporation has hired a new CMO for the Tourism Division. She is set to start on July 11th.**
- o RIAC: Jessica has been working on the coupons for the pilots and reports that she has been keeping the office stocked and that the program was going well.**
- o Jessica reported that her summer Intern has started and has been working out very well so far.**
- o Jessica reported that she was able to hand out the 4 Scholarships at graduation.**
- o Glass Float project has started.**
- o Reminder that the BI Tourism Council will be sponsoring the first Blues on the Block Concert on July 6th.**
- o There was an issue with the Bathrooms at Ball O'Brien and those facilities will not be available for "a few weeks".**
- o PVS Canoe Hokule'a will be visiting Block Island. Jessica updated the board on this.**

Approve Minutes:

May 3, 2016: Zena made a motion to approve and Julie seconded. All approved.

June 6, 2016: (Open and Closed) Julie made a motion to approve and Steve seconded. All approved.

Old Business:

1) Funding Request from CGSP: Zena made a motion to fund the request with \$2500. Julie seconded. During discussion it was discovered that others weren't comfortable with that amount. Julie withdrew her second and John and Steve voted no. John made a motion to fund the CGSP for the walkovers for the dunes with \$2000. Steve seconded and all approved.

2) Marketing Assistant/Job Description: Jessica wanted to re-introduce this since some of our funding was being reinstated. There was a lot of discussion about what exactly this person would be doing. Jessica was asked to set up a subcommittee to refine the job description. There was also an attempt to set up a time line for hiring. It was noted that ideally the description would be ready in October and a hire would be made by January 1.

New Business:

A) July 4th preparations: Jessica noted that the 4th was around the corner.

Accounts Payable:

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

9:45am: John made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded. All approved.

Date Accepted: July 12, 2016

Jessica Willi

Executive Director

Block Island Tourism Council