



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
12pm – Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Held at:
Howard Johnson Inn
351 W. Main Road
Middletown, RI**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by Chairman Len Panaggio.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Keith Chouinard, John Edick, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Matt Plumb, Brad Read, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: Rick Peckham

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: None

NOTE: Our host, Rocky Kempenaar, owner of Howard Johnson Inn and President of Kempenaar Real Estate spoke to the board about the newly completed renovations and offered a tour at the end of the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for April 2016 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Stephan Brigidi 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 May 2016 was read by Treasurer Brewer Rowe. City Bed Tax through February, 2016 was up +21.26%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +19.61%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was down -72.40%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through February, 2016 up +18.85%. Brewer reviewed the revenues and expenses for the months of March and April 2016. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2016 was made by Stephen Brigidi and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Evan Smith reported on the following:

- Evan briefed the board on Destination Next and asked that all board members complete the survey as soon as possible. Paul Ouimet our contractor from Intervistas will be giving a presentation here on May 26th from 9am – noon to review the survey results and answer any questions. Discussion followed.
- Commerce RI is currently interviewing for a new CMO. A decision on a final candidate will be announced by Commerce Secretary Pryor in June.
- On May 10th, Senator Louis P. DiPalma introduced **Senate Bill #2987**, a bill that would authorize Newport and Middletown to collect an additional 1% meal and beverage tax to fund road and sewer repair. A local meals and beverage tax currently exists where each and every meal and/or beverage sold within the state in or from an eating and/or drinking establishment is taxed 1%. Newport City Council and Middletown Town Council have asked Senator DiPalma to introduce the legislation that would approve the additional collection. At the April 13th meeting, Newport City Council approved a resolution requesting the RI General Assembly to amend RIGL 44-18-18.1, entitled, "Local meals and beverage tax". Discussion followed. The board elected not to take a position since the request was introduced by the two municipalities.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GOVERNANCE: Kathleen Seguin reported on the following:

- Nominations for the board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer should be send to Kathleen by June 9th. Evan reviewed the appointment date and terms of appointments. Elections should be held prior to the September 2016 board meeting.

FACILITIES: Stephen Brigidi reported on the following:

- The Gateway Center lease is up for renewal. Evan is meeting with the city manager on June 1st.
- A quote for new furniture in the lobby of the visitor's center came in higher than the amount allocated for this expense. Discussion followed. Frank Sallee made a motion to accept the new quote. The motion passed unanimously.
- Hertz Car Rentals is waiting to hear if our lease is approved with the city before they go forward with negotiations to open a rental office in the visitor's center lobby.
- A mason is being hired to repair the damaged cement outside of the building. RIPTA has not given a start date yet for repair to the damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Keith Chouinard extended an invitation to the board members to an event at the Hotel Viking on Wednesday, May 25th from 4-7pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:19pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, June 21, 2016
Greenvale Vineyards
582 Wapping Road
Portsmouth, RI
12pm**