



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
12pm – Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Held at:
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
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, Rock Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, Karen Oakley, Len Panaggio, Barbara Pelletier, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Rusty Sallee, Kathleen Seguin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: John Edick, Rick Peckham, Brad Read, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: Matt Plumb

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE:

Sarah Bratko from Rhode Island Hospitality Association

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for February 2016 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kathleen Seguin and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments from the public.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT: Brewer Rowe reported on the following:

The treasurer's report for February 2016 was read by Treasurer Brewer Rowe. City Bed Tax through December, 2015 was up +10.25%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +12.45%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was up +5.50%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through December, 2015 up +10.78%. Brewer reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of January 2016. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2016 was made by Rusty Sallee and seconded by Karen Oakley. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Evan discussed the RI tolling plan including installation of 14 preliminary gantry locations where large commercial trucks would be tolled to fund bridge repairs. He informed the board that the American Truckers Association has cancelled their national conference scheduled at the Hyatt this July as a boycott of the state's decision. They are now looking for a venue. Discussion followed.
- The NCAA basketball teams are playing this Thursday through Sunday (3/17-3/20) in Providence. We are hoping for an overflow of players, fans and media from all over the country visiting our destinations this weekend.
- Evan briefed the board about the plans Commerce RI has to release its new logo and ad campaign on Monday, March 28th.
- On 3/1, John Lambeth, President of Civitas Advisors met with the Marketing committee to review the requirements, benefits, operation and formation of a **Tourism Improvement District**. Revenue derived from the nominal surcharge on hotel rooms is designated strictly to marketing the districts. This would have to be approved by the legislature.
- The RI Department of Revenue Division of Taxation is hosting a seminar at the CCRI Newport County Campus on 4/1, from 10am-12pm for property owners, real estate agents, tax professionals detailing the filing and payment requirements related to the taxes on short-term residential rental properties. The seminar is free and open to the public.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None given in the interest of time.

VI. STAFF REPORTS:

A. MARKETING:

Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing introduced Renée Sevigny our new Website Operations Manager to the board. She updated the board on the current status and upcoming events in the Marketing Department including overview of the new website. The April marketing will be held at the Redwood Library on the 6th at 10am. The topic will be heritage tourism. Newport Restaurant Week runs from 4/1 - 4/10.

B. SALES:

Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the board on the current status and all upcoming events in the Sales Department including the Destination New England summit at the Marriott 4/11-4/13. This conference will bring together over 100 international buyers with 300 plus New England suppliers.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: Sarah Bratko, Manager of Gov't Affairs at Rhode Island Hospitality Association presented the board on proposed legislation regarding employee scheduling, wages and sick/paid leave relating to workers in the service industry and requirements on employers. Discussion followed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Hotel Viking
One Bellevue Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**