



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
12pm – Tuesday, June 20, 2017
Newport Car Museum
1847 West Main Road
Portsmouth, RI**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Marco Camacho, Keith Chouinard, Duncan Maio, John Edick, Matt Gineo, TR McGrath, Barbara Pelletier, Matt Plumb, Brad Reed, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Frank Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Elizabeth Woodhouse

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Kristine Cox, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: Rich Talipsky – Director of Business Development - Portsmouth

Note: Our hosts, Gunther and Maggie Buerman owners of the Newport Car Museum welcomed board members to their new 14-acre facility in Portsmouth at the former Raytheon site. After a brief history of their venture and future vision for the classic car museum, they offered a tour at the end of the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for May 16, 2017 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no comments from the public.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for May 2017 was presented by Treasurer Keith Chouinard. Keith went over the new format, which compares monthly actual vs budget and year-to-date actual vs budget. For February bed taxes, the City of Newport was up + 24% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up + 19% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up + 305% as compared to budget. Private revenue for the month of May agreed to budget, with total revenue +17% compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by ~ 5%. Keith then reviewed the revenue and expenses for April. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2017 was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Paul Rodrigues. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: FACILITIES:

Stephan Brigidi reported that Kristine Cox is a new member of the committee. The bus parking area has been re-opened for visitor buses. Landscape plantings and rain gardens will be completely installed by the Fall. The VC info circle contractor will begin after the cruise ship season is over, no lease renewal by the city as of now, there will be new wall maps of Newport and one of Aquidneck island will be installed.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The lodging petition and district definition of a tourism marketing district (T.M.D.) in Newport has the city solicitor's approval. Petitions are being distributed to all lodging properties with 20+ rooms this week seeking support. We need to have 60% to file with the city.
- The Pell Bridge construction traffic challenges are mostly due to commuter problem not necessarily a tourist accessibility issue. Traffic monitoring is the same as last year, no decline. We want to get that message out to the public to encourage tourists not to change their plans due to the work on the bridge. RIBTA is helping to get the message out to the public.
- Sailboat race from Plymouth, England to Newport began on May. Due to severe weather conditions, out of 38 boats only 7 finished. The winner sailed into Newport yesterday.
- Gateway Center update, buses are off America's Cup Ave and back on campus.
- Norwegian Air service from PVD to Cork, Ireland begins this month. July 7th, we are hosting a group of tour operators from Ireland for lunch.
- RI state budget has been released. Our efforts to keep our funding at 47% failed. Officially, we will know by next week after the final vote at the state house.
- The lease of the Gateway Center with the city has lapsed. Discussion followed.
- There is no board meeting in July.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Bristol concert series at Independence Park begins tonight and continues through the summer. Tiverton casino is moving along as planned. Barrington hosted the CVS Golf Classic this week.

VII. STAFF REPORTS: none given in the interest of time

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:53pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held
in August may be a social event
TBD**