



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Newport Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Karen Binder, Geremie Callaghan, Keith Chouinard, John Edick, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, T.R. McGrath, Andrew Moore, Jeanne Marie Napolitano, Brewer Rowe, Bob Rulli, Nancy Parker Wilson, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Elizabeth Buckley, Rocky Kempenaar, Rick Lombardi, Andrew Moore, Brad Read

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Alyson Adkins, Jennifer Bailey, Anna Duffy

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for January were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Bob Rulli. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for January was presented by Matt Gineo:

- For November bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +10% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -1% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down -8% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of January was up +21% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +8% as compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by 10%. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Christine Klase. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. GOVERNANCE REPORT:

Chairman Brewer Rowe addressed the need for a vote to appoint a vice chair to replace the seat vacated by Kathleen Seguin. An email had been sent to board members asking for interested board members to apply. Bob Rulli, Keith Chouinard and Ryan Yalanis expressed interest. A vote was taken, and Ryan was appointed as vice chair. The vote was ratified by the board.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan reviewed the Pell Bridge realignment plans, design and timeline. Discussion followed.
- Evan reviewed pending legislation currently under debate at the State House affecting the restaurant industry. On 2/25 there is a meeting at Midtown Oyster Bar with our local legislative representatives.

VI. STAFF REPORTS:

- Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the board on the current status and upcoming events of the Marketing Department staff including the Burger Bender promotion, 2020 Visitor Guides are in and the revamp of our website.
- Jennifer Bailey, Visitor Services Manager updated the board on the current status and upcoming events in the Visitors Center.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- The municipal town representatives reported on local upcoming events in their regions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:04pm

The next Board Meeting will be held:

Gateway Visitor's Center

23 America's Cup Ave.

Newport, RI

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

12pm