



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Zoom Virtual
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Geremie Callaghan, Keith Chouinard, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, T.R. McGrath, Andrew Moore, Jeanne Marie Napolitano, Brewer Rowe, Bob Rulli, Ryan Yalanis, Rocky Kempenaar, Rick Lombardi, Andrew Moore, Brad Read, Elizabeth Buckley, Karen Binder, Nancy Parker Wilson, Tom McNiff

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: John Edick

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Tim Walsh

STAFF EXCUSED: Alyson Adkins

Member of the Public: Ryan Belmore

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for April were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Keith Chouinard. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

- For February bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -6% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -18% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down -26% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of April was down -70% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -27% as compared to budget. Total expenses were down -57% as compared to budget.

A motion to approve the treasurers report was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan updated the Board as follows:
 - The draft of FY2021 budget will be sent out on Wednesday, May 20th, for a 30-day review period. Please look over the draft and send any questions to Evan and/or Brewer. The draft will be voted on at the June meeting.
 - The Visitor Center will remain closed for the rest of the year. We will utilize the mobile Visitor van for destination information and park it under one of the overhangs on the compound.
 - Evan is working with our state legislatures to get clarity on 501(c)(6)/quasi government agencies being in the next round of PPP funding.
 - We applied and our in the que for the Economic Disaster loan.
 - Reopening RI currently in Phase I-outside dining and retails shops open. Lodging properties- 80% remain closed but looking forward to all opening by May 22. Two new properties; Hammetts Wharf opening by end of June & Brenton opening in beginning July.
 - Evan is co-chairing a regional task force with Erin Donovan from Newport Chamber. The first meeting is next week.

V. REGIONAL UPDATES:

- **Barrington:** Beaches open on Friday parking for residents and must have day passes. Couple of restaurants have closed permanently.
- **Middletown-** Beaches opening in phases. Third beach open this weekend with half capacity, for residents only, no lifeguards, no public bathrooms, swim at your own risk. Hopefully in a few weeks they will open second beach but limited number of cars. Middletown residents only and NO amenities. Beach open now just no parking. Regarding outside seating options for restaurants -must submit a plan to town administrators.
- **Little Compton-** South Shore beach will open with only 50% capacity, not out of state folk s only for residents, gate closed every night to Beach lot. Hearing about lots of cancellations with long term rentals.
- **Newport:** Beaches open to anyone who wants to enjoy the shoreline but must pay to park. Restaurants must submit plans for outside seating to city manager as well. City flexible with plans. Trash falling out of cans this weekend in Queen Anne square, lack of paper products from restaurants. Need to have Waste Management pick up more often on Weekends.
- **Jamestown:** Outdoor dining in municipal parking lot in heart of town. Parks open, must wear masks.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:06pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Virtually
Tuesday June 16, 2020
12pm**