



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Zoom Virtual
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Christine Klase, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: John Edick

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

STAFF EXCUSED:

Member of the Public:

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for May were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Jeanne Marie Napolitano. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

- For March bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -44% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -8% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down -63% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of May was down -14% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -28% as compared to budget. Total expenses were down -75% as compared to budget.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Brewer Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

- Matt presented the FY 2021 budget, which was emailed to the board on May 20th. There were no questions from the Board on the FY 2021 budget.

A motion to approve the FY 2021 budget was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Brad Read. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan updated the Board as follows:
 - Effective June 1st, the 14th day quarantine for out of state travelers has basically been lifted. Lodging for the first two weeks of June has had strong performance.
 - 80% of our attractions are open
 - Restaurants are doing well with outside dining, they more seat 50% of indoor seating. For the most part, customers seem to be doing well with restrictions.
 - Catering is very hard hit, as they have lost all corporate/wedding business under Phase I & II. There has been little guidance still for Phase III on the definite number and the exact timing, thought we are hearing early July.
 - Recreation has been one bright spot, as many of our recreation is outside, which is naturally social distance.
 - Evan is still working with our state legislatures on PPP, as a 501(c)(6)/quasi government agency, we still do not qualify for PPP funding.
 - We are working with the Chamber and Commerce RI on EDA grants. Hopefully, we will see movement within the next month.

V. Governance:

- TR McGrath updated the Board that Ryan Yalanis had resigned. Ryan represented hotels over 100 rooms. He brought forth a nomination of Pamela Baldwin, Director of Sales & Marketing at Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina.

A motion to approve Pamela Baldwin to fill the seat of hotels over 100 rooms was made by Jeanne Marie Napolitano and seconded by Brewer Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

REGIONAL UPDATES:

- **Barrington-** Economy is slowly opening, there are a handful of restaurants open with outside dining. Beaches are open to all.
- **Warren-** Restaurants slowly opening. Extending outside dining licenses. Beaches are open to all. Passed FY 21 budget.
- **Bristol-** Restaurants are busy. Museums are open to outside only
- **Little Compton-** Beaches are open to all during the day, after hours to residents only. Summer rentals have picked up.
- **Jamestown:** Uptick in day visitors, outdoor licenses extended to mid-August

- **Middletown-** Beaches are open-Third beach for residents only; Second beach to all, but season passes only. Restaurants following state guidance and are doing well. Holding off on passing FY 2021 budget-waiting on federal funding and to many unknowns.
- **Newport:** Passing out masks on lower Thames St. Businesses having an issue with customers refusing to wear masks. Concerned about RI DOT taking over RIBTA, as RI DOT has a reputation of not taking care of bridges in the state and the island has three. RIBTA has done a great job with our bridges.

V. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:58pm

The next Board Meeting will be held:

TBA

Tuesday September 15, 2020

12pm