



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors
Bureau**

**DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors**

Meeting

ITHOF

194 Bellevue Ave.

Newport, RI

Tues., Oct. 19, 2021

12pm

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Pamela Baldwin, Jennifer Chapin, Keith Chouinard, Christine Francis, Ann Hof, Rocky Kempenaar, T.R. McGrath, Sean O'Connor, Bob Rulli, Dennis Turano, Missy Varao

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Karen Binder, Geremie Callaghan, Charlie Holder, Tom McNiff,

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: John Nunes – Newport Vineyards

PUBLIC COMMENT: Our host Todd Martin, CEO of the Int'l Tennis Hall of Fame was introduced by Evan Smith. Mr. Martin spoke briefly about the many new programs underway both locally and internationally for the Hall of Fame.

I. CALL TO ORDER: by Chairman T.R. McGrath at 12:05pm

II. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for September 2021 were reviewed by the board. Bob Rulli and Dennis Turano asked for edits made to their reports. A motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Rocky Kempenaar and seconded by Jennifer Chapin. The motion passed unanimously.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for September was presented by Alyson Adkins:

- For July bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +91% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +85% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +143% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of August was up 20% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +323% as compared to

budget by 13% as compared to budget. Discussion followed.

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 on the following:

- Evan thanked both Brewer Rowe and Todd Martin from the ITHOF for the use of the room to host our meeting. He invited board members to tour the museum at the end of the meeting.
- This is the first board meeting for our Barrington appointee Ann Hof and Portsmouth appointee Matt Gray from Portsmouth.
- Evan updated the board on the news of federal government relief dollars for small business and the tourism industry. The House Finance Committee will meet on 10/20 to decide where this aid will be invested. Evan will submit written testimony. Innovate Newport will host a meeting on 11/4 to discuss the best allocations and criteria which the funds can and cannot be spent on.

V. STAFF/REGIONAL UPDATE:

- **Kathryn Farrington, VP of Marketing**, updated the Board on news and events in the Marketing department:
 - Christmas in Newport plans are already underway. The 42nd Newport Annual Illuminated Boat Parade will begin at 6pm on 11/26
 - Newport Restaurant Week runs Nov. 5-11 featuring over 60 restaurants participating in our 9 towns. It is free for restaurants to participate.
 - Winterfest will happen next February 18-27, with most events outdoors and our very popular "Burger Bender" contest coinciding. "The Off Season is on" Ads will run on TV in NY and CT markets.

- **Sean O'Connor: Newport**
 - Save the Bay has signed a lease on the Gateway Center
 - Jane Pickens Theatre now having regular screenings and events
 - The Pell Bridge Run is on October 17th at 7am
 - Island Moving Co. under the stars outdoor performances were Oct. 8 – 17th

- **Bob Rulli: Warren**
 - Bob informed the board about upcoming Sunday Strolls in Warren over 6 weekends, Oct.24-Nov.28 featuring art, music, shopping, and food.

- **Christine Francis: Tiverton**
 - Short term rental occupancy meetings are going before the zoning board.
 - The Harvest Market at the Tiverton Land Trust & Farmers Market attracted over 4K people on Sunday, October 17th

- **Ann Hof: Barrington**
 - Spoke about the 40th Soccer invitational Tournament for 120 boys and girl's teams competing over the weekend of Nov. 6-7

- Dennis Turano: Middletown
 - Revenue for the Middletown beaches was up from 2019
 - Linden School pickleball courts have been proposed
 - Food Carts are now allowed at all farms
 - Plumby's location on E. Main Road has been purchased by the former owners of the 5th Element.
- Matt Grey: Portsmouth
 - Ragged Island Brewing Co. has applied for a special events license with the town. The 37- acre farm is zoned residential.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Rocky Kempenaar Parker Wilson. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

**The next Board
meeting will be held:
Tues. Nov. 16
Gurney's Newport
Resort & Marina
1 Goat Island
Newport
12pm**