



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday March 15, 2022
RIBTA
1 East Shore Road
Jamestown, RI
12pm**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by T.R. McGrath, Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Pamela Baldwin, Karen Binder, Geremie Callaghan, Keith Chouinard, Gillian Friedman Fox, Christine Francis, Matt Gray, Charlie Holder, TR McGrath, Tom McNiff, Andrew Moore, Sean O'Connor, Bob Rulli, Dennis Turano

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Ann Hof, Rocky Kempenaar, John Nunes, Missy Varao

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Tim Walsh, Anna Duffy, Alyson Adkins, Alex Hurd
Member of the Public: Lori Silveira – RITBA. Savana Dunning - Newport Daily News

- I. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Evan Smith introduced Lori Silveira, Executive Director of RITBA and thanked her for hosting us today in Jamestown. Lori briefed the board on many projects underway in the state.
- II. **NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**
The City of Newport has filled their open seat on the board as follows:
Gillian Friedman Fox is replacing the seat vacated by Jenn Chapin. Gillian is the Executive Director of Newport Classical, previously known as Newport Music Festival.
- III. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**
The previous meeting minutes for January were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Bob Rulli and seconded by Sean O'Connor. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
 - a) The treasurer's report for February was presented by Geremie Callaghan:
For December bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +145% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +111% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +328% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of February was up +11% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +127% as compared to budget. Total expenses were overbudget by +26%. A motion to approve the treasurers report was made by Sean O'Connor and seconded by Karen Binder. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) Alyson Adkins, VP of Finance reviewed for the board the need for a vote for Restatement and Amendment for the 457(b) plan. We are moving the retirement plan from Voya to Empower which requires us to have our own plan documents. Currently our plan documents are under the state of RI. We will be presenting to the board at a future date the 401(a) plan amendments to that plan. Discussion followed. A motion to approve this change was made by Sean O'Connor and seconded by Karen Binder. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Evan updated the Board on the following:

- Our board rep., Tom McNiff welcomed the board to Jamestown. He is the owner of The General's Crossing Brewhouse at 34 Narragansett Ave.
- Evan will send the board a link on the RIDOT work on the Pell Bridge. He asked TR McGrath to explain how the 3-year project and expected work on the ramp in the Halsey St. neighborhood including traffic redirection. Discussion followed.
- At the May meeting there will be a draft of the FY2023 budget for review. The budget will need to be ratified at our June meeting. Discussion followed.

VI. STAFF/REGIONAL UPDATES:

- Kathryn Farrington, VP of Marketing, updated the Board as follows:
 - The always popular Newport Restaurant Week runs from April 1 – 10th.
 - Burger Bender promotion ran from Feb 18-27 at 36 participating restaurants featuring 48 different burgers. The contest winner for beef burger was the Mooring Restaurant, non-beef burger winner was The Boat House.
 - The Marketing department is welcoming Francesca Donlan as our new Director of Communications starting in April. She previously was the Communications Director for The Beaches Fort Myers & Sanibel – Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau.
 - Simple view web traffic reviews grew 59% from last year. Kathryn thanked Julie and Natalie for a job well done!
 - Our map postcards have a QR code, and the 2022 Destination Guides are expected from our printer any day.
- Tim Walsh, VP of Sales, updated the Board as follows:
 - Trade shows, Familiarization tours and client events are being booked again. The motor coach market is picking back up. Cruise ships are returning after a 2-year absence.
- The following board members gave updates about their respective townships: Karen Binder- Bristol, Bob Rulli – Warren, Tom McNiff – Jamestown, Charlie Holder – Newport, Sean O'Connor – Newport, Matt Gray – Portsmouth, Andrew Moore – Little Compton, Dennis Turano – Middletown and Christine Francis – Tiverton

- VII. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Sean O'Connor and seconded by Karen Binder. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
12pm
TBD**