



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tues. October 18, 2022
Peak Events
785 West Main Road
Middletown, RI
12PM**

The meeting was called to order at 12:19pm by T.R. McGrath, Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Pamela Baldwin, Keith Chouinard, Christine Francis, Gillian Friedman Fox, Matt Gray, Ann Hof, Charlie Holder, TR McGrath, Andrew Moore, John Nunes, Sean O'Connor, Missy Varao

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Karen Binder, Rocky Kempenaar, Tom McNiff, Bob Rulli
BOARD MEMBER ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED: Dennis Turano, Andrew Moore

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

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: None

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman T.R. McGrath introduced Nicole Wardle, V.P. of Sales at Peak Events Services. Nicole gave the board a brief history of the company and its expansion history over the years and various offerings for events and venues in RI and MA. She offered the board a tour of the facility after the meeting adjournment.

II. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for September 28th were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by TR McGrath and seconded by Missy Varao. The motion passed unanimously.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for September was presented by Pamela Baldwin:

- For July bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +9% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -11% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down -8% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of September was up +40% as compared to budget, with total revenue up+3% as compared to budget. Total expenses are underbudget by -3%.

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

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Evan updated the Board on the following:

- Evan suggested the board members take a tour of the Peak property after today's meeting.
- Board member, Sean O'Connor has started his new position as the Executive Director of Rose Island Lighthouse.
- Last weekend, Newport was extremely busy with cruise ships in the harbor and the Seafood Festival activities on Bowen's Wharf. The Fall weather cooperated and brought people into town.
- The Pell Bridge ramp construction is ongoing. Improvements underway are relocation of the dog park, upgrade of traffic signals, pedestrian/ bicycle safety and realignment of the Farewell St. area. Discussion followed.
- There is nothing to report regarding development of the former Newport Grand property in the north end of Newport.

V. STAFF/REGIONAL UPDATES:

Kathryn Farrington, VP of Marketing, updated the Board as follows:

- The October Marketing Meeting is at 11am tomorrow at The Wyndham in Middletown for our industry partners.
- Our new Marketing Coordinator, Sophia Miccolis started on October 1st.
- Newport Restaurant Week runs from November 4-13 with 72 restaurants participating. The Jane Pickets Theatre and Event Center is partnering with Discover Newport by hosting a Foodie Film Festival coinciding with Newport Restaurant Week and featuring movies focusing on food. This promotion serves to offer up a great meal and a movie experience.
- Francesca Donlan, Communications Director has been busy with Media FAMs in NYC and UK journalists from *The Times of London* and *The Daily Mirror* visiting our area.
- The Citizens Pell Bridge run stepped off this past Sunday at 7:15am to raise funds for various local nonprofits through the RI Turnpike and Bridge Foundation.

Tim Walsh, VP of Sales, updated the Board as follows:

- There is an international FAM coming in November.
- Attendance at the IMEX trade show in Las Vegas was the highest since before Covid. There are now more meeting planners on staff.
- The following board members gave brief updates about their respective townships:
Christine Francis – Tiverton, Sean O'Connor, Charlie Holder, and Gillian Friedman Fox – Newport, Matt Gray – Portsmouth, Ann Hof - Barrington

- VI. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Chouinard and seconded by Pam Baldwin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:49pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Tues. November 15, 2022
The Vanderbilt
41 Mary Street
Newport, RI
12pm**