



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
DBA Discover Newport  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, April 17, 2018  
Gateway Center  
23 America's Cup Ave.  
Newport, RI  
12pm**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:** Karen Binder, Marco Camacho, Katie Dickson, John Edick, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, Duncan Maio, Matt Plumb, Brewer Rowe, Frank Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson, Elizabeth Woodhouse

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE:** T.R. McGrath, Brad Read, Paul Rodrigues, Ryan Yalanis

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:**

**STAFF PRESENT WERE:** Evan Smith, Kathryn Farrington, Anna Duffy

**I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

The previous meeting minutes for March 2018 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by Marco Camacho. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no comments from the public.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The finance committee met on 4/11. The treasurer's report for March 2018 was presented by Matt Gineo. For January bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -17% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -9% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up 210% as compared to budget. Private revenue for the month of January was down -2% as compared to budget, with total revenue -10% compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by 5%. For YTD, total bed taxes are up +2% as compared to budget, total revenue is up +2% to budget, and total expenses are overbudget by 3%. Matt then reviewed the revenue and expenses for March. Discussion followed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2018 was made by Brewer Rowe and seconded by Duncan Maio. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- Evan reviewed two newspaper articles published today (Providence Journal and Newport Daily News) addressing fees charged to tourists in RI:
  1. The *Newport Daily News* reported that the Middletown town council voted to support the bill which calls for raising the meals tax from 1% to 2%.
  2. Today's *Providence Journal* featured an article addressing T.F. Green State Airport - (PVD) attempting to raise fees for jet fuel.
- The RI Dept. of Revenue is not releasing publicly a list of lodging properties delinquent on payment of lodging taxes. Evan attended a state tourism meeting at which the Block Island tourism council asked why they are not in receipt of their share of collected lodging taxes by the state. Discussion followed.
- At the March BOD meeting the board approved hiring a legislative consultant. Interviews are being scheduled and we are in progress of finding the right person to work on our behalf at the state level.
- Evan expressed concern over the recent "60 Minutes" segment investigating low-cost Allegiant Airlines poor safety and maintenance record. Allegiant Airlines is one of the most profitable carriers in the U.S. and flies in and out of PVD daily. Discussion followed.
- The new *Rhode Island Official Travel Guide* was given to all members of the board.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:** none given in the interest of time

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

Municipal reports: Each of the town representative gave a brief report on news and upcoming events in their municipalities.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held  
Tuesday, May 15, 2018  
Gateway Center  
23 America's Cup Ave.  
Newport, RI  
12pm**