



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Marco Camacho, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Duncan Maio, T.R. McGrath, Matt Plumb, Brad Read, Brewer Rowe, Nancy Parker Wilson, Elizabeth Woodhouse, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Karen Binder, Katie Dickson, John Edick, Christine Klase, Paul Rodrigues, Frank Sallee, Kathleen Seguin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

- Laura Sitrin, City of Newport Finance Director spoke on tax collections of short-term rental issues including noise, ordinance, building/fire codes compliances and revenue collections for the city and state. Rental properties must be registered with the city. The state of RI has not made the decision yet on Airbnb providing addresses and disclosing their room tax remittance financial records. The city has hired *Host Compliance*, a company which obtains lists of short-term rental properties listed on the web. Discussion followed.
- Erin Donovan Boyle, Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce spoke about *Connect Greater Newport*, the Chamber's regional economic development initiative to cohesively sell our destination to businesses both nationally and internationally. Erin reviewed plans for a 5-year strategic plan and focus on economic development on a regional scale. Discussion followed.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The finance committee met on 8/20. The treasurer's reports for June and July 2018 was presented by Matt Gineo:

JUNE

- For April bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -12% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +7% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down-1% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of June was up +23% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -2% compared to budget. Total expenses were over budget by 5%.

JULY

- For May bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +12% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +15% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +9% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of July was up +15% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +14% compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by 4%.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The new Tiverton casino ribbon cutting ceremony is 8/30. The hotel at this site has 84 rooms.
- Evan has been asked to chair the committee planning the 50th Anniversary of the Pell Bridge in 2019.
- Tourism District Update - Evan brought the board up to date on the NTMMA nine-member board made up of (2) city appointees and (7) hoteliers appointed by this board. The assessment began as of 1/1/18 and will be used to fund tourism promotion in the district as directed by the NTMMA board.
- Patricia Smurro, Destination Expert from our Sales Department is moving to Charleston, SC next month. She will continue to cover the NYC region and Southern states for Discover Newport.
- The (6) board seats up for renewal this September will be voted on at the next meeting.
- Cathy Morrison, VP of Operations at the Gateway Center is retiring on September 14 after 22 years of dedicated service.

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**