



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12:00pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Karen Binder, Marco Camacho, Kristine Cox, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, Duncan Maio, T R McGrath, Brad Read, Paul Rodrigues, Brewer Rowe, Frank Sallee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Katie Dickson, Matt Plumb, John Edick, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson, Elizabeth Woodhouse

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

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

The finance committee met on 2/14. The treasurer's report for January 2018 was presented by Matt Gineo. For November bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -14% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down -7% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up 9% as compared to budget. Private revenue for the month of January was down -13% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -12% 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 underbudget by 5%. Matt then reviewed the revenue and expenses for January. Discussion followed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2018 was made by Brewer Rowe and seconded by Duncan Maio. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan informed the board that staff is developing a three-month budget beginning on April 1st - and reviewed the highlights for the projected budget ending on June 20, 2018. Discussion followed.
- The Newport Tourism Marketing Management District assessment collection began on 1/1/18.
- Tonight, Evan and Frank Sallee will be presenting at the Jamestown Town council meeting.
- The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) and Discover Newport will be honored on March 29th the *2018 Smart Growth Awards* from Grow Smart Rhode Island for the renovations completed at the Visitor's Center. The awards honor those shaping a stronger Rhode Island through innovative community revitalization and preservation initiatives and partnerships. The \$6.6 million project was funded with 90-percent federal grant money secured with the assistance of Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation, and with local match provided by the City of Newport and Discover Newport. The campus design for the Center features recycled materials, pedestrian safety enhancements, bike-friendly features, and resilient green infrastructure, including permeable pavers and rain gardens. The Center welcomes serves as a transportation hub for RIPTA buses, tour carriers, taxis, bicyclists and more.
- The 30th annual Newport Winter Festival is underway until February 25th. This event coincides with our Burger Bender contest and February school vacation week.
- Evan addressed recent false accusations made on a social media blog regarding our promotion of Newport Restaurant Week and our Burger Bender contest which any restaurant may participate in. Discussion followed.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Brad Read from Sail Newport presented a video on the Volvo Ocean Race expected at Ft. Adams May 8th - 20th. He thanked the board for their help and support showcasing RI during this international sailing event. Newport is the only North American stopover for the race. Volvo Group (Farm, construction equipment) and Volvo cars will be bringing their top clients to RI for this event. In 2015, 131,000 people entered the yachting village at Ft. Adams to view the races.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:54pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**