



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 19, 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: Karen Binder, Marco Camacho, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, Rocky Kempenaar, T.R. McGrath, Brad Read, Brewer Rowe, Frank Sallee, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson, Elizabeth Woodhouse, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: John Edick, Duncan Maio, Matt Plumb, Paul Rodrigues

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: Katie Dickson

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

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for May 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.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The finance committee met on 6/13. The treasurer's report for May 2018 was presented by Matt Gineo. For March bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -15% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +25% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down -12% as compared to budget. Private revenue for the month of May was up +17% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -1% compared to budget. Total expenses were agreed to budget. Matt then reviewed the revenue and expenses for May. Discussion followed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2018 was made by Marco Camacho and seconded by Kathleen Seguin. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2019 budget – Evan asked the board if there were any questions about the FY2019 draft budget. None were raised. Rusty Sallee made a motion to approve the FY2019 budget as presented which was seconded by Brewer Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- There is a bill in the State House to increase our funding from 42% to 45%. We were seeking to restore our funding back to 47%. State budget draft has not been voted on yet. Discussion followed.
- Legislative update - Bob Goldberg, legislative consultant and Evan met with House Speaker Mattiello at the State House. Evan has testified before both the House Finance Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. He reviewed for the board two different lodging formulas used to determine how the collected bed tax is allocated by the state using different percentages.
- 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.
- We have subscribed to a new research report from *AirDNA* in Denver which tracks Airbnb rentals. Smith Travel Research is unable to obtain this lodging information. This will help us to define the significant impact Airbnb is having on lodging occupancy and rates. Presently, Commerce RI does *not* distribute any of the Airbnb lodging tax revenue to the municipalities collecting this fee. There is no
- Kathleen Seguin spoke about legislation introduced to the House Judiciary on May 11th regarding short-term rental requirements by fire marshals, insurance liability policies, fire/carbon monoxide detectors, exit signs and handicapped accessibility.
- The (6) board seats up for renewal this September are: Kathleen Seguin – lodging less than 100 rooms, Ryan Yalanis – lodging more than 100 rooms, Matt Plumb – restaurants, John Edick – member of the public, Brad Read – attractions, Duncan Maio – Barrington. (Duncan is not eligible for term renewal but has made a recommendation to the town council for his replacement.)
- Bids closed today for roof painting of the Visitor's Center.
- No July meeting.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Kathleen Seguin has added a new food brand extension to Bristol House B & B launching next month.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:47pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**