



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
12pm – Tuesday, November 15, 2016
The Gateway Visitors Center
23 America's Cup Avenue
Newport R.I.**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Nancy Blount, Stephan Brigidi, Marco Camacho, Keith Chouinard, John Edick, Matt Gineo, Duncan Maio, Barbara Pelletier, Matt Plumb, Brad Read, Paul Rodriques, Brewer Rowe, Kathleen Seguin, Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Rick Peckham, Frank Sallee

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS PRESENT WERE: T.R. McGrath from McGrath's Clambake and Caterers, John Lambeth from Civitas

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for October 2016 were reviewed by the board. Paul Rodriques asked that the October minutes be amended to mark him as present on 10/19/16. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Stephan Brigidi and seconded by Keith Chouinard. The motion passed unanimously.

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

III. Proposed Tourism Marketing District Presentation:

Evan Smith introduced John Lambeth, President of Civitas and reviewed his extensive successful experience working with cities, counties and business and property owners to create public-private partnerships in 11 states.

John presented the board in-depth details and explained the successful formation of highly customized T.M.D.'s meeting the unique needs of each area. If approved by Newport lodging properties, this program will generate additional marketing funds to be used by the district participants. If approved, we would be the first in New England to implement this marketing plan. Discussing followed.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for October 2016 was read by Treasurer Keith Chouinard. City Bed Tax through August, 2016 was up +6.98%, YTD; Regional Bed Tax was up +4.68%, YTD; Bristol Bed Tax was down - 12.96%, for a combined YTD Bed Tax, through August, 2016 up +6.39%. Keith reviewed the revenues and expenses for the month of October 2016. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for October 2016 was made by Marco Camacho and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan Smith informed the board that new construction will begin in January 2017 at the Gateway Center.
- Evan briefed the board that our funding is scheduled to be reduced from 47%to 42% on July 1, 2017 per state law. He asked the board if to support a formal request to our elected officials seeking their support to change and modify the state law to leave our funding level at 47% moving forward with no expiration date. Discussion followed. Stephan Brigidi made a motion to support the request and the motion passed unanimously. The board wanted to approve the final draft prior to its circulation to the 10 elected officials from Newport & Bristol County.

VI. STAFF REPORTS: None given in the interest of time

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held
Tuesday, January 17, 2017
12pm
Gateway Visitor's Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI**