



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2019
Newport Innovation Hub
513 Broadway
Newport, RI
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Keith Chouinard, John Edick, Salvatore Fuccillo, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, Rick Lombardi, T.R. McGrath, Jean Marie Napolitano, Brad Read, Brewer Rowe, Bob Rulli, Frank Sallee, Nancy Parker Wilson, Elizabeth Woodhouse

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Karen Binder, Christine Klase, Nancy Parker Wilson, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Kathryn Farrington, Tim Walsh, Alyson Adkins, Jennifer Bailey, Anna Duffy

GUESTS: Bob Goldberg

NOTE: Tuni Shartner, Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Innovate Newport gave an overview of the historic Sheffield School conversion to the Newport Innovation Hub which opened in June. She spoke of the various, future plans for the space, rental options and current occupancy. Tours were offered to all interested at the end of the meeting.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for May 22, 2019 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jeanne Marie Napolitano and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. BOARD UPDATES:

Brewer informed the board of the resignation of Elizabeth Woodhouse our Little Compton representative.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The treasurer's report for May 2019 was presented by Matt Gineo: For March 2019 bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -20% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +26% as compared to budget and Bristol County was up +3% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of March was up +42% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +2% as compared to budget. Total expenses were overbudget by +4%. Matt reviewed the revenue and expenses for the month of May. Note: correction will be made by Alyson Adkins on the *Expenses YTD Actual vs. Budget* slide #4 under the Administrative column which was incorrect). Discussion followed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2019 was made by John Edick and seconded by Keith Chouinard. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chairman Brewer Rowe asked for a motion to approve proposed version #3 of the FY20 budget as presented to the board. Brewer thanked the board for their input and thoughtful questions during the budget creation process and revisions made by the Finance Committee. A motion to accept the FY20 budget was made by Brad Reed and seconded by Jeanne Marie Napolitano. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan Smith welcomed Bob Rulli the newly appointed Warren board representative replacing Katie Dickson. Today is Elizabeth Woodhouse's last board meeting as our Little Compton representative. The town has appointed Andrew Moore as her replacement.
- The BOD restaurant rep. seat is currently open. We are looking for an active and engaged restaurateur in one of the 9 towns in Newport or Bristol county. The governance committee will be conducting a search and interviewing and screening potential candidates over the summer months.
- Our legislative consultant, Bob Goldberg reported the legislative session is ending soon. The RI House will be voting this Friday, June 21st at 2pm on the state budget. Bob explained how the Assembly voting will affect tourism funding. Both Rep. Marvin Abney and Sen. Lou Di Palma along with the Tourism councils have been lobbying to get our share of the Airbnb tax funds collected by lodging properties. Evan testified at the State House before Senate and House committees. Discussion followed.
- The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Pell Bridge will be on Friday, June 28th. Evan is the Chairman of the festivities which will include a free concert and fireworks at Ft. Adams. Rain date is Sunday, June 30th.
- The Newport July 4th Fireworks will be taking place on **Tuesday, July 2nd**.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:48pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Gateway Visitor's Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
12pm**