



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Karen Binder, Keith Chouinard, Salvatore Fuccillo, Matt Gineo, Christine Klase, Rick Lombardi, T.R. McGrath, Jean Marie Napolitano, Frank Sallee, Elizabeth Woodhouse, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: John Edick, Rocky Kempenaar, Matt Plumb, Brad Read, Brewer Rowe
Nancy Parker Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE: Katie Dickson

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

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for February 2019 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Christine Klase and seconded by John Edick. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. PELL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Buddy Croft, Executive Director and Eric Offenburg, Director of Engineering with the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) presented plans and a timeline for bridge projects beginning this year including how RITBA will handle the impact on morning/afternoon commuters, public awareness, adjustments for weather and significant seasonal events, traffic lane mergers and the need for two construction seasons prior to the start of the D.O.T. Newport ramp project. They detailed the sequence of work and gave detailed explanation of the necessity for preventative maintenance on the 50-year-old bridge. Discussion followed.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The treasurer's report for February 2019 was presented by Matt Gineo: For December 2018 bed taxes, the City of Newport was up +3% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +21% as compared to budget and Bristol County was up +9% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of February was up +34% as compared to budget, with total revenue up +12% as compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by 12%. Matt reviewed the revenue and expenses for the month of January. Discussion followed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2019 was made by Jean Marie Napolitano and seconded by Brad Reed. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan reintroduced Keith Chouinard, Director of Sales and Marketing at The Chanler who has been appointed to the board to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Kathleen Seguin. Keith will be representing lodging properties with under 100 rooms.
- Evan asked the board to consider appointing Phil Hospod from the Mainstay Inn and Conference Center to fill a vacancy on the (9) member Newport Tourism Marketing Management Authority (NTMMA) board due to GM leaving the Vanderbilt. Discussion followed. Rocky Kempenaar made a motion to appoint Mr. Hospod to the NTMMA board and Christine Klase seconded it. The motion to fill the vacant seat passed unanimously.
- A survey was made by Evan to see if the board would be interested in holding our next meeting at the new Twin River Tiverton location. Members agreed this would be a good opportunity.

VI. MUNICIPAL UPDATES:

Board members reported on upcoming news and events in their towns.

VII. STAFF REPORTS:

MARKETING: Kathryn Farrington, Vice President of Marketing updated the board on the status and upcoming events in the Marketing Department. Our Spring Newport Restaurant Week is April 5 – 14 with over 50 restaurants participating. The next Marketing meeting for industry members will be held at the International Tennis Hall of Fame on March 21st at 11am.

SALES: Tim Walsh, Vice President of Sales updated the board on the status and all upcoming events in the Sales Department.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Twin River
777 Casino Blvd.
Tiverton, RI**