



**Newport & Bristol County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DBA Discover Newport
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Newport Gateway Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
12pm**

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm by Chairman Brewer Rowe

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: Christine Klase, John Edick, Matt Gineo, Rocky Kempenaar, T.R. McGrath, Andrew Moore, Brewer Rowe, Bob Rulli, Nancy Parker Wilson, Ryan Yalanis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED WERE: Karen Binder, Keith Chouinard, Brad Read, Frank Sallee, Rick Lombardi, Jean Marie Napolitano

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT & NOT EXCUSED WERE:

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

GUESTS:

NOTE: No restaurant representative has been appointed to the vacant seat.

I. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes for June 18, 2019 were reviewed by the board. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Matt Gineo and seconded by John Edick. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public

III. GOVERNANCE:

Board updates: Barrington should be selecting a new appointment prior to our next meeting. Our Jamestown representative is having health related challenges, we are unsure if he will continue with the board at this time. The call for nominations to the restaurant seat was issued by Discover Newport and three interested candidates responded. The governance committee recommended to the board that Geremie Callaghan fill the seat. Brewer asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of the governance committee. A motion was made by John Edick and seconded by Matt Gineo. The motion passed unanimously.

Evan asked the board to consider approving several by-law changes; (1) to require two-thirds attendance to hold a meeting rather than a specific number of attendees for a quorum. (2) changing the rotation schedule of the 18 board seats primarily to stagger the 6 seats held by Newport and Middletown. Discussion followed. Brewer Rowe asked for a motion to ask our state legislators to submit a bill officially changing the by-laws. A motion was made by Nancy Parker Wilson and seconded by Rock Kempenaar. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for May 2019 was presented by Matt Gineo:

- June financials:
For April bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -20% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was up +3% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +5% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of June as down 3% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -12% as compared to budget. Total expenses were overbudget by +37%. For fiscal year 2019, total bed taxes are up +1% as compared to budget, total revenue is up +3% to budget, and total expenses are underbudget by -1%.
- July financials:
For May bed taxes, the City of Newport was down 16% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down 8% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was up +6% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of July was down -11% compared to budget, with total revenue down -13% as compared to budget. Total expenses were overbudget by +6%.
- August financials:
For June bed taxes, the City of Newport was down -2% as compared to budget, Newport County (excluding City of Newport) was down 17% as compared to budget, and Bristol County was down 2% as compared to budget. Total private revenue for the month of August was down -5% as compared to budget, with total revenue down -7% as compared to budget. Total expenses were underbudget by -8%.
- The annual audit will begin on September 23rd. The audit results will be presented at the November board meeting by Sansiveri, Kimball & Co. LLP.
A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bob Rulli and seconded by TR McGrath. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Evan Smith informed the board of legislation pending in the state house regarding 3rd party ticket sellers collecting sales tax on attractions. Should this ruling stand, our ticket program may have to significantly change.
- The October board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, 10/ 22nd rather than 10/15 due to the Columbus Day holiday.
- The results of the Economic Impact Study the board invested in last year were reviewed. This information included visitor spending in the communities on Aquidneck Island.

VI. TOWN UPDATES: Given by the municipal representatives.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm

**The next Board Meeting will be held:
Gateway Visitor's Center
23 America's Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
12pm**