

Board of Director Minutes

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting January 11, 2008 @ Noon, In the Council Conference Room

1. Roll Call

Attendees:

Dave Balfour, Chairman
Richard Murphy, Member
Louis Yip, Member
Louise Boulanger, Member
Dave Richards, Member
Robert Billington, President
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations

Absent:

Paul Eno, Member
Robert Cahill, Member
Sam Butera, Vice-Chairman
Jackie Boudreau, Treasurer
Sue Tessier-Mackenzie, Secretary
Robert Conway, Member
Anthony Capuano, Member
Dave DePetrillo, Member
John Lefrancois, Member
Helen Moroney, Member
Len Clingham, Member
Ted Garille, Member

2. Minutes

On a MOTION by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the minutes of the November 16, 2007 meeting were approved as amended. (Copies attached and made a part of these minutes)

3. Treasurer's Report

The Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual dated January 02, 2008 for the period from July 2007 through July 2008 (YTD) was presented. Mr. Richards asked what the difference in percentage of profit and loss. Ms. Carter explained an approximate 3% seasonal loss to date.

A letter dated Jan 10, 2008 from Finance Management explaining a discovered error in payroll taxes was distributed. (Copy of the letter is attached)

On a MOTION by Mrs. Boulanger and a seconded by Mr. Richards the Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. (Copy of the Report is attached.)

Mr. Balfour read a letter from Vice Chairman Sam Butera noting his resignation from the Board of Directors. The Board asked Mr. Balfour to send a letter of regret.

Mr. Richards nominated Mrs. Boulanger for the position of Vice Chairman vacated by Mr. Butera. A Unanimous vote was taken to elect Mrs. Boulanger Vice Chairman.

4. President's Report and Old Business

Mr. Billington updated the Board on the following:

- a. The effort to consolidate debt for the Water Cruises of RI project was discussed. Billington noted near \$180,000 in volunteer hours have been donated to operations of the Blackstone River Valley Visitor Center.
- b. The Pawtucket River Bridge Project was discussed.
- c. The Broad St Regeneration Project was discussed.
- d. The Jan 24th Kick -off of the Civic Tourism Conference was discussed.
- e. The October Civic Tourism II Conference was discussed.
- f. Billington alerted the Board that the National Heritage Corridor has taken back the funds that were set-aside for the Blackstone River Science and Exploration Center.
- g. The offer from the Amber Valley Borough Council to participate in the 2008 mini-Olympics was discussed. Rich Murphy will try to connect the World Scholar Athlete games with this effort.
- h. Billington notified the Board that he is still attempting to find a way to better finance the riverboats.

5. New Business

Dave Balfour noted that the League of Cities and Towns pre-filed legislation to take the room tax and shift it to the cities and towns. He wants the towns in the Blackstone to guard against these efforts.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Yip Motioned the board to adjourn, a second was presented by Mrs. Boulanger. The Board adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Billington
President