

Board of Director Minutes

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting March 15, 2007 @ Blackstone Valley Tourism Headquarters

1. Roll Call

Attendees:

Dave Balfour, Chairman
Dave Richards, Member
Louis Yip, Member
Helen Moroney, Member
Sue Tessier-Mackenzie, Secretary
Len Clingham, Member
Theodore G. Garille, Member
Robert Billington, President
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations
Don Marshall, Member

Absent:

Sam Butera, Vice-Chairman
Louise Champigny, Member
Dan O'Brien, Treasurer
Robert Conway, Member
Anthony Capuano, Member
Marcia Green, Member
Dave DePetrillo, Member
Paul Eno, Member
John Lefrancois, Member
Richard Murphy, Member
Robert Cahill, Member

Also:

Kevin Sylvia, Financial Management Services

Dave Balfour opened the meeting with a "Point of Privilege of the Chair. Balfour noted he was concerned about articles appearing in the Valley Breeze regarding the Corridor Keepers organization. He felt that possibly the Corridor Keepers would be competing with this and other non-profit groups for funding in the Valley and be duplicative in their work. Sue Tessier Mackenzie wanted to know the mission of the Corridor Keepers. Mr. Billington sought to wait and see if the Chairman's concerns were warranted. He would speak to another non-profit organization to sense their level of concern. The Board asked Mr. Billington to look into the situation further. Richards and Balfour were to meet with Mr. Billington next week to discuss the situation further.

2. Minutes

On a MOTION by Mr. Clingham, seconded by Sue Tessier-Mackenzie, the minutes of the January 19, 2007 meeting were approved with the following amendments. Under "new business", "d", Mr. Garille's name and title were corrected to read, "Theodore G. Garille, General Manager /CEO of the Pascoag Utility District." Unanimously approved. (Copies attached)

3. Treasurer's Report

Kevin Sylvia submitted a Financial Report, dated January 2007, due the recent resignation of Treasurer Dan O'Brien. (A copy of the Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.)

The Report was accepted with a motion from Sue Tessier Mackenzie and seconded by Helen Moroney.

The Chair read a letter from Dan O'Brien, Treasurer resigning from the Board. The Board accepted with regret.

Dave Richards suggested that Jackie Boudreau be invited to the Board of Directors and to serve as Treasurer. Dave Richards agreed to speak with her.

4. President's Report and Old Business

Mr. Billington updated the Board on the following:

a. RI Tourism Legislation

Mr. Billington updated the board on legislation H6062, A Burrillville Farm Bill and S413 that addresses a shifting of the tourism tax from the tourism districts to the cities and towns over 5 years.

Both bills are of interest to the Tourism Council.

b. RI DEM Contract

Mr. Billington noted that the contract between Dunkin Donuts and RIDEM to provide Visitor Services to the Lincoln Visitor Center has been signed by all parties.

c. Boat Operations - Spirit of the Blackstone Valley

Mr. Billington noted that the boat was still for sale. He has had some interest.

d. Bay Queen Cruise

Mr. Billington asked all Board Members to please purchase a seat on the upcoming fund raising cruise.

e. Water Cruises of RI

Mr. Billington has a meeting with Central Falls Credit Union to discuss the outstanding loans on the Ferry Boats.

f. UNWTO S.best Certification

The Post Card Announcement for the UNWTO certification was circulated to the Board.

5. New Business

a. Green Tourism Conference – Rhode Island

The draft of flyer promoting the Conference was circulated to the Board.

b. Travel Satellite Conference

Mr. Billington notified the Board that the Tourism Council would be participating in a Tourism Economic Impact Report being performed by Global Insights on behalf of the State of RI. Our financial share would be \$7,000.

c. Rhode Island Rivers Day Award

The Board would like to nominate Bob Sutton of RIDEM as the River's Day Award winner for 2007, if he is not a state employee at time. If he is, the Board suggested we wait till 2008.

d. Rhode Island Governor's Tourism Award 2007

The Board accepted the nomination by Dave Richards and the second by Sue Tessier Mackenzie of the Historic Sites of the Great Road Lincoln as the 2007 Governor's Tourism Award winner for the Blackstone Valley. Kathy Hartley and John Scanlon would be recipients of the award.

e. Annual Meeting

Mr. Billington suggested that Kevin Lima a movie director, a Pawtucket native, be recognized at our Annual Meeting for his work for Disney Pictures. He was a recipient of a Directors Guild of America Award and a long list of credentials next to his name and career. The Board overwhelmingly agreed that Lima should be recognized with a special recognition award.

f. Recent News Stories

Mr. Billington shared a recent story in the Boston Globe and the Providence Journal that talked about the rich cultural, heritage resources of the Blackstone Valley.

Mr. Clingham noted to the Board that he was staging an event on August 20th at the Monument to our Forefathers in Provincetown Ma. All were invited.

6. Adjournment

Dave Richards motioned to adjourn. There being no further business before the board, the board adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Tessier-Mackenzie
Recording Secretary