

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI
Tuesday, June 2, 2020
Via Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Dave Richards, Chairman
Barry Mechanic, Vice Chairman
Judy Fischbach, Treasurer
Thomas Kravitz (by phone)
Kathy Roberts
Louis Yip

Absent:

Dr. Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, Secretary
Michael Gwynn
Mark Brodeur

Also Attending:

Dr. Robert Billington, President, BVTC
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations, BVTC
Joan Loos, BVTC Staff

1. Call to Order. There being a quorum present, Chairman Dave Richards called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from April 30, 2020. Dave Richards moved to accept the minutes from the April 30, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Kathy Roberts seconded the motion and the minutes of the April 30, 2020 Board meeting were unanimously approved as presented.
3. Treasurer's Report. Judy Fischbach presented the Treasurer's Report. She explained the Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2020 as compared to the previous year. She also explained the Income Statement for July 2019 through April 2020, budget vs. actual and as compared to the previous year. Judy commented on the excellent job done to bring in net income while being careful about expenses.

Judy then presented the Budget for FY 2020-2021. She commented on the hard work done by Natalie Carter and bookkeeper Kevin to create a budget for the uncertain future. It is essentially half of what the budget would have been if not for coronavirus issues.

Natalie explained some of the entries for income, what the budgeted amounts include and how the dollar amounts were decided upon.

Judy reminded the Board this is an estimated budget which can be re-evaluated in the coming months, if necessary.

Barry Mechanic thanked the BVTC staff on behalf of the Board of Directors for taking a pay cut and understanding the current budget situation.

Barry Mechanic moved to accept the budget as presented, Dave Richards seconded, and the proposed budget was unanimously approved as presented, to be the operating budget for the foreseeable future.

4. President's Report

Bob thanked Natalie, Judy and Kevin for their hard work to create the budget, and he thanked the Board of Directors for their budget approval.

Bob recognized and thanked Board member Louis Yip and the Chinese community for their donations of masks and meals in the area and the state of Rhode Island.

He reported that all has been quiet at the Woonsocket Depot and that the next legal proceeding is scheduled for June 8.

The Tourism Council is working on cleaning our office following State of Rhode Island and CDC guidelines.

We are working with the City of Central Falls on the site and building at Central Falls Landing, as our future office space.

Bob announced that Marina Flannery, who has been a great environmentalist, a source of intelligence and a historian, has resigned her position at the BVTC. She has filed a report of a hostile working environment. Bob has received a letter from Marina regarding this, and Dave Richards also has a copy of the letter. Board members can communicate with Bob or Dave about the letter. Dave explained the contents of the letter, and stated that if these claims can be proved, the BVTC should be prepared to mount a defense. Board members suggested that we contact our attorney, Keith Fayan, to handle the matter and to advise what is the appropriate way to move forward on this issue.

Barry Mechanic moved to accept the President's Report as presented, Louis Yip seconded the motion and the President's Report was unanimously accepted.

5. Adjournment. There being no further business, Barry Mechanic moved to adjourn, Tom Kravitz seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Dave Richards at 11:55 am.

Joan Loos, BVTC Staff



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