

Board of Director Minutes

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting March 27, 2009 @ Blackstone Valley Tourism Headquarters

1. Roll Call

Attendees:

Dave Balfour, Chair
Louise Boulanger, Vice Chair
Sue Tessier Mackenzie, Secretary
John Lefrancois, Member
Maurice Rondeau, Member
Helen Moroney, Member
Louis Yip, Member
Najwa Murphy, Member

Absent:

Richard Murphy, Member
Jackie Boudreau, Treasurer
Robert Conway, Member
Anthony Capuano, Member
Mark Brodeau, Member
Len Clingham, Member
Dave Richard, Member
Paul Eno, Member

Also:

Robert Billington, President
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations

2. The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm with a quorum present.

3. Minutes

On a MOTION by Helen Moroney, seconded by Sue Mackenzie, the minutes of the Jan 30, 2009 meeting were approved as presented. (Copies attached and made a part of these minutes.)

4. Treasurer's Report

Billington presented the Treasurer's Report dated 03/18/09. A YTD Budget, a Profit and Loss statement, a Statement of Cash Flows and Balance Sheet were presented along with a report on Room Tax revenues for all years. Billington noted that Room Tax revenues were down by \$40,000 YTD. The Board discussed the falling revenues and reasons for such a drop. On a MOTION by Sue Mackenzie and seconded by Mr. Yip the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

5. President's Report and Old Business

Mr. Billington updated the Board on the following:

He discussed that he would like two more weeks of patience to try to pull together funding to put the Blackstone Valley Explorer in the water. He circulated a report from Bob Dombrowski that detailed how the boat may operate more efficiently. He is seeking funding from the City of Central Falls, the National Heritage Corridor and Citizen's Bank. He will report back to the Board for a special meeting over the next two weeks when a plan is worked out.

Mr. LeFrancois told the Board that he would help run a fund raiser for the boats and that he would design a booklet to contain advertising revenue to keep the boats afloat this season.

Billington explained that with a contribution from Helen Moroney, and in an effort to raise cash the Tourism Council was ready to launch a product line of Salsa and Dynamite Sauce along with it's Coffee Syrup.

6. New Business

Billington explained that all salaried positions were cut 20% until further notice. Work hours were not cut however. Ms Carter explained that the Tourism Council was approved for "workshare" with RIDET. This may help replace some of the income that each employee will be losing with this cut back in salary.

Billington and Carter announced a grant being received from the RI Foundation to help RI create a new "Blue Print for new Tourism." Billington will be leading this effort through the Sustainable Tourism Laboratory.

Billington announced that VISTA will be providing two positions to the Tourism Council this year with a possibility of a third.

The Board ratified the appointment of Barry Mechanic to the Board with a Motion from Helen Moroney and a second by Sue Tessier Mackenzie.

The Board ratified unanimously the Second Amendment to Loan Documents dated 30 December 2008 for Watercruises of RI LLC and Navigant Credit Union signed by David Balfour and Peter Conway of Conway Bus Service.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, it adjourned at 1:06 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Billington
President