

JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2015

(rescheduled from March 5, 2015 due to snow)

President Rusty Sallee called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m..

PRESENT: Executive Director John McCauley, and Board Members, Jeff Bush, Maria Flood, Kimberly Gregorzek, Petra Laurie, Sonya Morton-Ranney, Marilyn Munger, Rusty Sallee, Cathleen Studley, Mark Swistak, Ben Thomas and Kristine Trocki..

Aileen Flath, new Executive Director as of April 1, 2015, was also in attendance and welcomed.

Guest Dolores Bauer from ADK radio made a presentation at the start of the meeting re advertising possibilities starting in April in connection with the Volvo Ocean race which will be happening in May. An email will be sent out to the Chamber membership by the Executive Director outlining costs, and indicating that the Chamber will assist with the sponsoring of these ads.

The minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

Treasurer's report – The Treasurer's report previously emailed was approved. A vote was taken to approve the 2015 Budget, and thanks were expressed to Cathleen and to John for their work preparing it.

The Board reaffirmed no Business After Hours reimbursement to hosts for refreshments, and setting out a donation basket for the business to recoup some cost is suggested.

Executive Director – John McCauley introduced and welcomed Aileen Flath, the new Executive Director who will begin April 1, 2015. He outlined a proposed 2015 Events calendar to assist with her orientation, and it will be subject to the Events Committee. The Night At Event date of August 15th has been reserved with the Town, and we need to clarify if a fee for use of Fort Getty is to be paid. We voted and approved a donation of \$100 to the Jamestown Fire Department to go towards having a bagpipe group play in the Memorial Day parade. We would like it to be noted somehow that we contributed to this.

Old & New Business/Committee Reports:

Board Committee memberships for 2015 – will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of the new prospective board members and they will be voted on at the Annual meeting.

The Board approved via email the change over to “Fat Cow” as the new host for our website. Jane Lee will continue as our website manager, and Todd Hampson can help with any redesign necessary.

Membership: Sonya reported on new member USSupernet/Frank Palai. John reported on the status Chamber membership renewals, and those who have remained unpaid will be contacted.

Government: John will draft a letter to the Town recognizing the Town's efforts in handling the snow, and the work by the Hardware Store employees will be noted. Rusty reported that the Food and beverage tax is up for the first half of the last fiscal year which is an indication of a possible economic upturn. Rusy also reported on the Governor's proposal to possibly close some visitor bureaus and its possible effect on local tourism offices.

Marketing: SoRI ad program was approved via email for June, July and August, and the rep expects no problem obtaining the ads. Yankee Magazine reports 24 click throughs to our website for the March/April issue so far.

The prospective kiosk for East Ferry was discussed, re timing and the level of Town involvement. John will meet again with the Town, and Jeff will put together a quote and some basic design ideas.

The "Fate of the Jamestown Business District" was discussed, and John will be following through.

Events:

January Planning breakfast – status of plan input, someone needs to follow through.

February Breakfast "Your Marketing Story" impacted by snow.

Upcoming:

Breakfast March 25th, Wednesday, 7:30 am, Jeremy Collie, URI School of Oceanography

Annual Meeting Thursday March 26th, 6 pm – 9 pm, Newport Grand, dinner and comedian. Members and employees no charge, non members \$25.00. Candidates were discussed for the Community Service award.

RI Boat Show – 1st weekend of May

Business Expo – discussion re whether we should have one and when it might be.

Volvo Ocean Race upcoming

Memorial Day Parade – May 23, and we will have a Chamber vehicle again

Night At Fort Getty – reserved for Saturday August 15, 2015. To be discussed coordinator, beneficiary, caterer and other arrangements.

Next Meeting - Thursday, April 2, 5:30 pm, Bridges, election of new officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Morton-Ranney
Secretary

