

JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2015

PRESENT: Executive Director Aileen Flath, and Board Members, Jeff Bush, Kimberly Gregorzek, Petra Laurie, Marilyn Munger, Cathleen Studley, and Ben Thomas.

Call to Order- Rusty was not present, so Marilyn called the meeting to order at 5:45pm

Presentation to Board Re: Acquisition of PAC- Gene Mihaly-Guest Guest Gene Mihaly made a presentation at the start of the meeting re: about the potential acquisition of the PAC by the Town. He wrote a paper with John McCauley and met with Town Administrator Andy Nota to discuss improving the Jamestown Business district. His feelings were that buying the building was a good thing for the Town. It would help free up the Rec Center for more Arts and town groups. Discussion occurred with issues of parking, taking away from businesses in Town and real need for more space when we have the school that is underused.

Election of Officers – Kim read the nominations, Petra seconded, and all were in favor. Unanimous vote. Marilyn Munger- President, Maria Flood- 1st. Vice-President, Jeff Bush – 2nd Vice President, Cathleen Studley- Treasurer, Ben Thomas- Secretary, and Peggy Kopulchek- Board Member

Welcome to New Board Members – Peggy was unable to attend, so we held off on this.

Minutes of March 19th Meeting- The minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

Treasurer's Report- Cathleen stated that we have \$18,890.55 in the General Account and \$8,887.09 in the Chamber Checks Account.

Executive Directors Report- Aileen said that we are now switched over to “Fat Cow” as the new host for chamber email system and website. Also, we need a picture of the board for next month's Press to show current Board Members.

Old & New Business/ Committee Reports-

a. 2015 Jamestown Chamber Committees-

Events – stays the same

Finance – swaps out Marilyn for Rusty

Government – Add Jeff Bush

Marketing/PR – Loses Sonya, ask Peggy to join

Membership – Loses Sonya, Add Petra

b. Membership- Status of Renewals –Aileen read off the names of 8 businesses that have declined renewing Membership, and those businesses outstanding. Board offers to reach out.

c. Government-“Fate of Jamestown Business District”-Planning Forum-John McCauley was following up with this, but was not present. He was at the Town Council meeting in regards to the kiosk.

d. **Marketing-** Update on SoRI ad program for June, July & August ads - Aileen said that it was slowly filling up, but would follow up and make a push to members. Currently no takers on the previous meetings guest for Radio Ads.

e. **Kiosk-** Design ideas/cost analysis - Jeff Bush has submitted design and construction plans. John McCauley was at Town Council meeting requesting funds. Could have as early as Memorial Day if approved. Also, ideas of having groups help volunteer to staff the kiosk, i.e. Garden Club, Seniors, Students, etc...

f. **Planning Session Follow-up** – Petra is still working on typing up the notes from the Breakfast Planning meeting.

g. **Rotary Club Race** – Letter from Chamber/Response – Marilyn and Mark sent letter to Rotary asking about consideration for new starting and finishing place, i.e. Ft Getty or Beavertail. Discussion followed about Chamber's position – Aileen will write mock up letter to send to members to see their position and reference when Town Council meeting will be.

Events-:

March Breakfast- 20 attendees-Jeremy Collie, URI Oceanography Prof. – Well attended and an interesting lecture.

Annual Meeting - March 26th – Also well attended – roughly 75 people. General feeling was that it was a successful night. Fun, good food, good venue, and friendly staff. Cost less than anticipated - \$1,204 versus \$1,650 as budgeted.

Business Expo – Held off on picking date until next meeting.

Business After Hours – Several businesses reached out after John's email to host. – Fair Trade, Pem Attaway, Newport Gran, Island Animal. Ben is reaching out to Fair Trade to do April's After Hours.

RI Boat Show – Aileen to email Ryan to get information about event, then will send out email to Chamber members to support the event.

Memorial Day Parade – Discussion of whether to have Truck again. Helped pay for bag piper band. Looking in to getting new banner made for event.

“Night at Fort Getty”- August 15th - Put on calendar online and on Facebook. Petra followed up with band and they seem to be able to accommodate. Will confirm at next meeting.

Next Meeting- Thursday May 7th at 5:30pm