

# JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 1st, 2015

**PRESENT:** Executive Director Aileen Flath, and Board Members, Jeff Bush, Kimberly Gregorzek, Petra Laurie, Marilyn Munger, Mark Swistak, Rusty Sallee, Maria Flood, Kristine Trocki, and Ben Thomas.

**Call to Order-** Marilyn called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

**Minutes of September Meeting-** The minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report-** Cathleen was unable to attend, so no report was given.

### **Executive Directors Report-**

- Aileen reported that \$1,500 was given to the Senior Center with picture in the Press.
- There is a speaker on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Jamestown Library, Kristi Ashley, a professor at URI will give a talk, 'Relationship Marketing and Social Spaces' at 6:30pm.
- ED reported that our new website should be up by the end of the month per Todd Hampson. Will be more user friendly and easier to update for Admins. Aileen was also able to work a deal with the owner of www.Jamestown-RI.info, which will link directly to our page now.
- ED reported that 23 'New Homeowner' packets were sent out.
- A new set of Chamber checks was ordered.
- Aileen handed out a list of potential new members, which board members will help by contacting and trying to get to join. Also, she asked the board's permission to make postcards to send to potential new members. There was a motion, a second, and all were in favor.
- Discussed an ad in the Jamestown Press thanking all current members. ED was going to find out pricing, and a vote would be taken via email before the next meeting.
- ED reported she was able to get the price of the Chamber phone down.

### **Old & New Business/ Committee Reports-**

- Website Redesign update** – covered in ED report.
- Membership** – Membership Drive/Renewals. Drive discussed in ED's report above. No new renewals to chase discussed.
- Marketing** – New rates for SoRI & Hey Rhody discussed. Discussion about whether to keep offering discount for SoRI. Decided that we continue offering the Jamestown page and pushing for that, but without the discount for the upcoming Holiday Season. Discussion also about looking into ads for Newport This Week. ED is looking into it.
- Education** – Seminar on Marketing with Social Media – Discussed in ED's report above.

### **Events -**

**Business After Hours** – October postpone – Discussion that the BAH has become a bit stale with very little attendance, so it was decided that a break was needed. October does have the speaker seminar to fill the gap.

**Columbus Day Rotary Race** – Aileen will email membership to remind them of the upcoming race. Rotary has been pro-active in hearing our concerns for our businesses. They are working to cause as little disruption as they can. Follow up with businesses most affected and see if access improved.

**Friday Night Downtown** – Discussion as to effectiveness since it's along the same lines at the BAHs that have seen dwindling attendance. Board offered that we should potentially push for more seminars like the speaker this month instead.

**Small Business Saturday** – Aileen was going to put an ad in the Press to show support prior to the event to remind people of our businesses in town to shop at on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

**Holiday Stroll** – Board is going to start reaching out to members to see who wants to participate. Marilyn will reach out to Charlie Petit who has the map, so that we can update it. Jeff brought up looking into getting Chamber Credit/Gift Cards in lieu of the usual Checks, so that better tracking of who is purchasing and where could be done. Also, to work on businesses to get more of them to accept checks.

**Holiday Party** – Petra will contact CYC and see if they are available for the December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm date, and pricing for dinner vs heavy appetizers, both with cash bar. Other options were discussed including Newport Grand & Salvation Café. Marilyn to contact Newport Grand. Jeff to reach out to Salvation Café. Jeff to also reach out to discuss potential comedian and pricing for that. All options to be given to the Board by October 7<sup>th</sup> to make the vote before the next meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn** – There was a motion to adjourn at 6:23pm.

**Next Meeting- Thursday November, 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**