

Board of Director Minutes

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 23, 2010
Tourism Council Conference Room
175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI**

1. Roll Call

Attendees:

Dave Balfour, Chair
Najwa Murphy, Member
Moe Rondeau, Member
Dave Richards, Member
Judy Fischbach, Member
Jackie Boudreau, Treasurer
Paul Eno
Dave Richards

Absent:

Sue Tessier Mackenzie, Secretary
Helen Moroney, Member
Louis Yip, Member
Ted Garille, Member
Robert Conway, Member
Anthony Capuano, Member
Mark Brodeur, Member
Rich Murphy, Member
John LeFrancois, Member

Also Attending:

Robert Billington, President
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations

2. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm with a quorum present.

3. Minutes

On a MOTION by Mr. Richards and seconded by Mr. Rondeau and Ms Boudreau, the Minutes of the April 23, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Boudreau presented the details of the Financial Report as of July 14, 2010. (attached) Ms. Boudreau noted a surplus of approximately \$59,000. Ms. Carter explained that at the end of the FY that surplus would be used to pay down debt service on outstanding loans. Ms. Boudreau noted \$161,000 in assets were in the possession of the Tourism Council.

On a MOTION by Mr. Eno and seconded by Mr. Rondeau, the report was approved as published and presented.

5. President's Report

Mr. Billington updated the Board of Directors on the following:

The need for a By-Laws Committee to review and update as necessary. Mr. Rondeau requested that each member of the Board be sent a copy by email for their review.

Billington mentioned that Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities was hosted in the office last month. He is on a 50 state tour titled American Civility Tour.

He noted that a financial grant was received from the state of RI to help finance the operations of the Visitor Center

He noted that Natalie Carter represented the Tourism Council at the state-sponsored tourism planning session.

He updated the Board on his and Mr. Yip's participation at the World Tourism Summit held in Beijing in May.

Billington noted that long-time Board member Ted Garille would be retiring and stepping down from the Board of Directors. He recommended Judith Allaire, the GM of the Pascoag Utility District replace him on the Board.

He pleaded with all Board members to purchase an ad in the 25th Anniversary program. He noted that over 15 ads were sold to date.

He noted that Barry Mechanic is working with Lloyd Albert of AAANE to develop an advertising program that will promote 24 non-profit visitor attractions in the Blackstone Valley.

He noted that at the Annual Dinner the William Blackstone Society will induct Rick Greenwood of the RIHPC and John Gregory of the NRICOC into the Society.

Upon a MOTION by Mr. Rondeau and a SECOND by Ms. Boudreau the Presidents report was accepted.

6. New Business

Mr. Rondeau noted again that the Tourism Council should work with the Cumberland Lincoln Boys Club on their Rubber Ducky race in 2010.

Dave Richards asked why the work discussed at a meeting he held with Billington and Mr. Reeder was not completed as yet. Billington explained that due to time constraints the changes were slow to engage.

Dave Richards questioned if the Riverboat Explorer was coming to Woonsocket this year. Billington noted that the condition of the temporary dock deteriorated so much that it had to be removed and the new landing is taking longer than expected.

Dave Balfour and Dave Richards noted that the Backyard Tour regarding Ghosts in the Blackstone Valley needs to be respectful to the dead. Both had questions and comments about the presentation being offered in August. Mr. Eno, after a lengthy discussion, offered to speak to the presenter, who was his friend, to insure that a respectful tour was offered to the public. Mr. Mechanic noted that the ads he was hoping to produce in next week's paper were not ready to go due to the artwork was not ready. Billington assured him the designer was being pushed to get it done quickly.