

**Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Inc.**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council  
175 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
January 17, 2017

**Attendees:**

David Balfour, Chairman  
Barry Mechanic, Vice Chairman (via phone)  
Judy Fischbach, Treasurer (via phone)  
Dave Richards, Secretary (via phone)  
Michael Gwynn  
Dr. Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane  
Paul Palange  
Courtney Iannuccilli (via phone)  
Thomas Kravitz

**Absent:**

Alexander Parmenidez  
Louis Yip  
Debra Berardis  
Mark Brodeur

**Also Attending:**

Dr. Robert Billington, President, BVTC  
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations, BVTC  
Joan Loos, BVTC Staff

1. Call to Order. Mr. Balfour called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2016. Joyce Koutsogiane moved, Paul Palange seconded, and the minutes of the November 15, 2016 Board meeting were unanimously approved as presented.
3. Treasurer's Report. Judy Fischbach reviewed the Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2016 and the Income Statement from July through November 2016. Joyce Koutsogiane moved and Tom Kravitz seconded, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted as presented.

Bob and Natalie explained the Profit and Loss Statement from the Fall Train excursion, which took place in October 2016. All expenses are in on this event and payments have been paid. Profit from this event was \$6,615.42. Dave Richards will make contact with someone who may be influential in having a train excursion from Putnam to Woonsocket for AutumnFest in 2017.

4. Director's Report. Bob Billington reported the following:
  - An anecdotal study is being done by BVTC regarding attendance at BVTC sites in 2016 as compared to 2015.
  - The Polar Express finished well, taking almost 18,000 people on the train with many positive comments received. We now have an area in the Woonsocket Depot for office, storage and retail space, which makes the production much easier. All payables will be made as of this week, after a payment is made to Rail Events.

- Bob is working with a group to determine how the \$10 million allocated for bike paths in the state will be spent.
  - Two long-time supporters of the BVTC have passed away this month – Al Klyberg and Rose Lavoie.
  - The BVTC was recognized by the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, receiving the Chairman’s Award.
  - Tom Kravitz was congratulated on his new position as Town Planner for North Smithfield.
  - A grant from the Rhode Island Foundation has been awarded for a part-time Coordinator for the Broad Street Regeneration in Pawtucket, Central Falls and Cumberland.
  - Joyce Koutsogiane will be looking for a property that can be used as Designer’s Show House for a potential fundraiser for the BVTC.
  - Bob felt that John Taylor, President of Twin River, has not been recognized for the work he has done in the community. Bob asked him if he would agree to be recognized by us at our annual meeting in the fall, and John has agreed.
  - Natalie, our bookkeeper Kevin Silva and Judy have worked hard to organize our accounts under the audit. Water Cruises of RI was closed down and we received a penalty from the IRS from 2007 to the present, as income taxes had not been paid on this account, even though income was not generated for many years. The back taxes have been paid. Patty Cerilli, accountant of record, will handle the correspondence with the IRS and is investigating what needs to be done with the IRS.
5. Adjournment. There being no further business, Tom Kravitz moved and Joyce Koutsogiane seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Balfour at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Loos, BVTC Staff