

**JAMESTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Bridges Conference Room**  
**February 5, 2015**

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

**PRESENT:** Executive Director John McCauley, and Board Members, Kim Gregorzek, Marilyn Munger, Rusty Sallee, Cathleen Studley, Mark Swistak, Ben Thomas, and Kristine Trocki, Maria Flood & Petra Laurie, Ryan Miller of Latitude Yacht Brokerage

**ABSENT:** Sonya Morton-Ranney (ill), Jeff Bush (conflict)

**Presentation:** Ryan Miller of Latitude Yacht Brokerage reported on the upcoming Jamestown Boat Show on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 to 5 PM. This is the third year in Jamestown and promoting it with the business community would be a positive effect for the downtown business district. The board agreed that it would be an excellent kickoff for a pre-summer event. The Chamber will support the event. Costs are \$500 to show a boat and \$250 for a merchant table – web: rhodeislandboatshow.com. Additionally, Ryan reported that the Volvo race is coming soon to the Newport Harbor.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting previously sent via email were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial reports previously emailed were accepted as submitted. Additionally, the year financials for 2014 were approved and will be submitted to the CPA for the 2014 tax returns.

**Executive Director:** John McCauley will report on items later in the meeting.

**Old & New Business/Committee Reports:**

- Membership – John McCauley reported that there are approx. 35 unpaid member dues for 2015 which is typical for this time of year – he will send out a second billing. Board members indicated they will help as needed.
- Executive Director Search Committee – Marilyn Munger reported that there are several good candidates and that interviews would be started soon.
- Board openings – President, Rusty Sallee reported that there will be two openings to be filled at the annual meeting in March: himself and Sonya Morton-Ranney. A search committee was established with Ben Thomas as the chair, along with Maria Flood, Kim Gregorzek & Petra Laurie
- Government – no report
- Marketing – A proposal by SO RI for a Jamestown page in the summer editions (June, July & August) was presented by John McCauley. The pages would be a discounted \$1149/edition or approx. \$95/spot for 12 spots. The Chamber would underwrite the cost and collect the payments for the ads. The risk would be if the spots were not filled and Chamber was not reimbursed and would have to bear the cost. It was noted that this program is not new and was successfully done for five previous editions. The board wanted the ED to poll the membership to insure the interest.

John McCauley will revise the summer the summer kiosk proposal to show a kiosk cost of \$2500 borne by the Town, \$1500 from the Newport/Jamestown Community Fund and \$1500 from the Chamber. The board approved this proposal including the application to the Newport/Jamestown Community Fund.

John McCauley also reported that the proposed forum on the “Fate of the Jamestown Business District is awaiting feedback from the Town. Petra Laurie volunteered to assist on this.

- Events – Marilyn
  - Recap: January Planning Breakfast was attended by 25 individuals and was considered well done by Jeff Bush and Petra Laurie. Petra presented the flip chart on her thorough notes from the meeting. She will copy the information onto a word document to be used in establishing goals for 2015.
  - There will be breakfast meetings on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup> with speakers recruited by Mike Swistak
  - Annual Meeting will be Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at member Newport Grand. Marilyn Munger will send details after a meeting with the Newport Grand Staff. The board agreed that this would be a great venue even though it's off island.
  - 2015 Night at Fort Getty – the board approved putting in an application with the Town to reserve the Fort Getty location for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August.
- Fall Seminar series – will be reviewed at a future meeting

Next meeting – Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM

Meeting ended at 6:45 PM

Submitted by John McCauley in the absence of Secretary, Sonya Morton-Ranney