

**Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 19, 2019
at the GHRA office

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD TITLE	BOARD MEMBER	ATTENDANCE	YTD ABSENCES*
Chairman	Jeffrey Schweizer	Present	0 / 6
First Vice Chair	Bart Jackson	Present	1 / 6
Treasurer/Secretary	Sophia Chu Wigsten	Present	0 / 6
Hotelier Vice Chairman	Steve Solberg	Absent	2 / 6
Restaurateur Vice Chairman	Darren Talai	Present	0 / 6
Allied Vice Chairman	Jay Shedd	Present	1 / 6
Director	Toshi Doi	Present	0 / 6
Director	Frank Kenney	Present	0 / 6
Director	Edson Lai	Absent	1 / 6
10th Board Member	Tae Oh	Absent	1 / 6

*A Board Member may not miss more than five board meetings in a year.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES June 19, 2019 Board Meeting

Chairman Blas asked the board to review the minutes from the May 15, 2019 meeting. Restaurateur Vice Chairman Talai made a motion seconded by Director Doi to approve the minutes for May 15, 2019, subject to typographical errors and corrections.

Without objection, the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of May 15, 2019.

III. REPORTS/ COMMUNICATIONS

- **Treasurer's Report**

President Rhodes provided copies of the Treasurer's Report.

- **President's Report**

President Rhodes provided the President's report.

- **Guam Visitors Bureau**

First Vice Chairman Jackson provided an update on GVB regarding charter flights through Golden Week and an increase in Japan arrivals; although Korea is starting to level off, there are additional flights planned via Japan routes from Korea. There are still concerns regarding Russian asylum seekers and the short term vacation rentals.

GVB's vetting process for the President/CEO position has been a long and arduous process. The new administration has yet to select a person, but the GVB board has to have a quorum in order to vote the person in as per the bylaws. The elected members have been voted in at the general membership meeting. The newly elected members will be responsible for voting the new President/CEO along with the political appointees.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- **New Membership**

Chairman Schweizer asked the board to review the applications Avalon House - Short Term Vacation Rental and CJ Pacific - Allied. Treasurer / Secretary Chu Wigsten made a motion seconded by Director Doi to approve the membership of Avalon House - Short Term Vacation Rental and CJ Pacific - Allied.

Without objection, the board unanimously approved the membership of Avalon House - Short Term Vacation Rental and CJ Pacific - Allied.

- **Events & Programs**

President Rhodes provided RFP responses for the International Housekeeping Gala. Only Dusit Thani provided a response to host the annual gala. Treasurer / Secretary

Chu Wigsten made a motion seconded by Restaurateur Vice Chairman Talai to approve Dusit Thani as the host venue for the International Housekeeping Gala.

Without objection, the board unanimously approved Dusit Thani as the host venue for the International Housekeeping Gala.

President Rhodes provided RFP responses for the Tourism Cup. Responses were received by Starts Guam Golf Resort and Leo Palace Golf Resort to host the annual golf tournament. Treasurer / Secretary Chu Wigsten made a motion seconded by Restaurateur Vice Chairman Talai to approve Leo Palace Golf Resort as the host venue for the Tourism Cup.

Without objection, the board unanimously approved Leo Palace Golf Resort as the host venue for the Tourism Cup.

President Rhodes provided RFP responses for the GHRA Social. Hilton Guam Resort & Spa and Leo Palace provided responses to host the anniversary event. Treasurer / Secretary Chu Wigsten made a motion seconded by Restaurateur Vice Chairman Talai to approve Leo Palace as the host venue for the GHRA Social.

Without objection, the board unanimously approved Leo Palace as the host venue for the GHRA Social.

- **Legislative Watch**

President Rhodes provided a copy of Bill 136-35 on the Minimum Wage. The board discussed several issues regarding the proposed two year increment increase. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that President Rhodes will send a brief survey for a position on the bill and the impact to the business community. In addition, President Rhodes will provide testimony and a copy of the FAQ sheet on Tip Credit, which serve as a reference tool and guide for the 35th Guam Legislature and Guam Department of Labor. President Rhodes and the Director of GDOL have been working together on the issues. Guam Chamber and Guam Contractors are also opposing the minimum wage bill. President Rhodes will continue to collaborate with the sister organizations.

- **Training Grants**

President Rhodes provided copies of the Pre-Apprenticeship documents that were submitted to GDOL in preparation of offering courses to the membership. The Pre-Apprenticeship program is funded with \$1.7 million by US DOL and GHRA is one of the main organizations authorized to access the funds. President Rhodes authored the grant together with GDOL in 2016, which has received two cycles of funding in 2017 and 2018. A third grant submission will take place in 2019.

- **General Managers Meeting**

President Rhodes inquired about availability of board members to hold the annual General Managers Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Events & Programs**

President Rhodes announced several activities in which GHRA will be participating or taking the lead on during Guam EPA's Pacific Islands Environment Conference from June 22 through June 28 at the Hyatt Regency Guam. GHRA will be launching its Sustainable Tourism Environmental Practice (STEP) green guidelines, participate in the Food Waste Audit, speak as a panelist, and participate in a grant funding forum for green initiatives.

Membership Luncheon

President Rhodes reminded the board that they should attend the upcoming membership luncheon and send their staff to hear from our off island speaker - Gail Suzuki Jones, Hawaii Energy Office who will be speaking on the green guidelines and initiatives that Hawaii launched 18 years ago. The program has grown from 2 hotels to include more than 100 businesses in Hawaii. President Rhodes has been working with Ms. Jones on GHRA's STEP green guidelines booklet and program.

HERO Awards

President Rhodes provided the registration form for the HERO Awards. President Rhodes also reported that a meeting will take place with GVB's new management team to discuss the management of this event as well as the sponsorship of GHRA's programs and events. President Rhodes expects a Memorandum of Understanding will be put together to formalize the GVB and GHRA combined program(s).

• **Legislative Watch & Regulatory Agencies**

President Rhodes provided an update on her meeting with the new director of the Department of Revenue & Taxation regarding tax collections and enforcement of the short term vacation rentals and bed & breakfast establishments. President Rhodes also provided an update on the legislative review of the proposed rules and regulation changes for the pools by DPHSS. No follow up hearings or meetings have taken place regarding DPHSS and the legislature as per Tom Naddeau and Senator Therese Terlaje.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Kenney inquired about a marketing packet to promote member benefits. President Rhodes shared with the board that GHRA does have a member benefits standard e-mail, flyer and document that are shared on publications such as the directory. Also, Director Oh has provided a proposal from Vantage Advertising on how to add value to the member benefits with digital billboard advertising.

GHRA Board of Directors Actions

m/s/c Without objection, the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of May 15, 2019.

m/s/c Without objection, the board unanimously approved the membership of Avalon House - Short Term Vacation Rental and CJ Pacific - Allied.

m/s/c Without objection, the board unanimously approved Dusit Thani as the host venue for the International Housekeeping Gala.

m/s/c Without objection, the board unanimously approved Leo Palace Golf Resort as the host venue for the Tourism Cup.

m/s/c Without objection, the board unanimously approved Leo Palace as the host venue for the GHRA Social.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Director Doi and seconded by Director Shedd to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and will continue July 17, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at GHRA. Respectfully submitted by Mary Rhodes on behalf of the Secretary

Approved: Secretary to the Board

Date