

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 15th, 2014 4:00 pm

231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Board: Peter C. Rothberg, Sheryl Bar, Joshua Grimes, Laurie Townsend-Rapp, Lynn Martin Haskin, Daniel King, Christopher McGill, David Neff, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Luca Sena, Pat Lavelle, Jane Cowley, Albert Taus, Joseph Ritchie, Timothy Snowden
Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Brett T. Mapp, Gregory Diehl

Absent: Leo Addimando, Harvey Spear, Sonia Silverstein, Reginald Cummings, Dick Goldberg, Jafar Maleki

Guests: Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, George Pomerantz, Danielle Bitto.

Call to Order: Chairman J. Ritchie called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

Minutes

- June 2015 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- P. Lavelle offered a motion to approve. 2nd/C. McGill. All in favor, approved.

Chairman's Report: No Report.

Executive Director's Report: Job Itzkowitz

- J. Itzkowitz reported that current year assessment collections are currently at 86% of budget goal. Prior year assessments are at 120% of budget goal.
- J. Itzkowitz reported on meetings with representatives of Public Workshop, the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities, The Clay Studio, State Rep. O'Brien's office, and the National Constitution Center.
- OCD hosted the first installment of its brown-bag lunch series for stakeholders, with Linda Bradley of the Philadelphia Parking Authority to discuss on-street parking issues.
- Openings: Swiss Haus, Tucker Fiscus, Lindsay Rapp Gallery.
- Blurr nightclub has closed and the property owner intends to find a new use for the building.

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- There will be no August Board meeting. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th.
- An audit of OCD's insurance policies has occurred and there were no recommendations or concerns.
- Fork and High Street on Market are hosting a fundraiser tomorrow for their chef Eli Kulp who was injured in the recent Amtrak derailment. OCD helped them to coordinate with the owners of 300 and 302 Market, the location of the event.
- The pope will be in Old City during his visit but there are currently no more details available.
- In light of the recent financial issues at the South Street Headhouse District, OCD staff has been working with our auditors to ensure that financial controls are sufficient.
- G. Pomerantz addressed the Board regarding OCD's financial practices and controls and reported that they are sufficient and quite different from those in place at the SSHD. He asserted that a similar occurrence would be "almost impossible".

Treasurer's Report: Peter C. Rothberg

- G. Pomerantz presented a draft financial audit report for review by the Old City District Board.
- P. Rothberg made a Motion to approve the draft financial audit report as presented by the District's auditors. 2nd/ D. Neff. All in favor, approved.
- P. Rothberg presented and reviewed financial statements for May and June 2015.

Marketing Report: S. Bar

- The Mighty Engine will present the Strategic Marketing plan to the Marketing Committee at the next Committee meeting.
- The Guide to Old City brochure is now being proofed and will print shortly.
- The Marketing Committee continues to work with the Old City Fest Steering Committee in preparation for Old City Fest.
- Old City Restaurant Week is from July 19th-25th.
- The 25 anniversary of First Friday is next year and planning is currently underway.

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Clean & Safe Committee Report: J. Itzkowitz

- OCD is in negotiations with JJ Bootleggers and Gaslight who both want to revise their CLAs to allow for live music. All other provisions including sound controls will remain.
- There was a Cease & Desist from L&I posted at Barra / B-Side Hookah Lounge for operating without a Special Assembly Occupancy License which is dated to take effect on July 24th. SAOLs are up for renewal in August and Capt. Korn intends to oppose any application for an SAOL for those establishments
- Recess has hired a police detail for weekend nights per their agreement with their neighbors.
- There will be a meeting of the Nuisance Task Force on July 28th, which will be followed by a meeting of Old City Bar & Restaurant operators and members of the Task Force.
- Staff recently met with LRC Services to request an itemized proposal for costs pertaining to additional service for several privately-owned spaces utilized by the public in Old City.
- There was no July Clean & Safe Committee meeting, the next one is scheduled for August.

Economic Development Committee: J. Itzkowitz

- The Vision 2026 Master Plan is in progress; the Steering Committee has met twice and there has been a public open house as well as an online survey to collect public input. The data from the survey is being analyzed and will be made available shortly. There are additional Steering Committee meetings and another public open house planned as the project progresses.
- Improvements to the vacant lot at 240 Market Street are underway; the lot has been levelled and in the process of being fenced. It will also be seeded with grass and fenced, and shrubs will be planted at the front. There is potential for future activation of this site.

Board Development Report: No Report.

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Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: J. Kalter stated that it sounds like good things are going on and thanked the Board for its work.

Adjournment: Motion D. Neff. 2nd/P. Rothberg. All in favor, approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th, 2015, 4:00 pm, at 231 Market Street.