

# Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 16th, 2014 4:00 pm

231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

**In Attendance:** Sheryl Bar, Dick Goldberg, Lynn Martin Haskin, Dan King, Pat Lavelle, Christopher McGill, David Neff, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Sonia Silverstein, Laurie Townsend Rapp, Peter Rothberg, Harvey Spear, Avram Hornik.

Graham Copeland (Executive Director), Greg Diehl (Economic Development Coordinator), Brett Mapp (Operations Director).

**Absent:** Reginald Cummings, Joe Ritchie, Nick Gregory, Jafar Maleki, Albert Taus, Luca Sena and Jane Cowley.

**Guests:** Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Jen McCoy, Carlo Sena, Doris Thomas.

**Call to Order:** Vice Chairman Harvey Spear called the meeting to order at 4:10.

## Minutes

March 2014 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.

- D. Goldberg offered a motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ L. Martin-Haskins. All in favor, approved.

**Chairman's Report:** no report

**Executive Director's Report:** G. Copeland

- Assessment Collections - On target.
- Suit Corner Fire- Business owner looking for new space to re-open in Old City. Inga Saffron wrote an article linking the Suit Corner Fire with the Shirt Corner collapse, suggesting that there is a general problem in Old City with blight / dangerous buildings. G. Copeland's suggestion was to issue a press release listing all of the blighted buildings that are now under or pending redevelopment.
- Night Market – Thursday, May 15 from 6-10pm. J. Grimes is still in negotiations with the Food Trust attorney regarding liability / insurance for the event.
- Broker Breakfast – Scheduled for Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM at Revolution House. Mayor Nutter & Councilman Squilla are confirmed.
- Old City Restaurant Video – in progress, first of series highlighting different categories of biz in Old City.

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- N3RD Street naming – ceremony garnered media attention and the permanent signs are installed.
- SEPTA will test late night subway service on weekends. Pilot will run from June to Labor Day. Recommends supporting this program.
- RCO Meeting after today's Board Meeting to discuss a development at 313-325 Race Street
- The Economic Development Committee recommends advocating for change in tax structure from U&O tax to a tax on vacant, unused property.

## **Treasurer's Report:** C. McGill

Financial statements for March were presented and reviewed.

- Income statement: total revenues = \$447,180; operating expenses = \$59,807; operating income = \$387,373
- Balance sheet: total assets/liabilities = \$1,330,361.

## **Executive Session**

- The Board called an executive session to discuss staffing matters.

## **Marketing Report:** S. Bar

- Night Market will be Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in Old City. Local business participation is a record high and this will also be the largest Night Market held. Issues related to liquor and event insurance discussed.
- New Brochure push will begin in May
- Old City Fest – sponsorship package is done and contact needs to be made with potential sponsors.
- Newsletter has a new format that is more closely tied with the website, which has resulted in higher open rates & click through rates.
- Website statistics are all positive, indicating that people are using the site and finding it useful
- David Neff will reach out to clients regarding Old City Fest Sponsorship
- Jenn McCoy raised the issue of the burden of naming OCD as additional insured on insurance for Night Market. D. Goldberg suggested there was a nominal fee (or none) for adding OCD as additional insured. A. Hornik suggested that there are Special Event policies that are affordable.

## **Clean & Safe Committee Report:** H. Spear

- Captain Korn has been opposing new Liquor Licenses, wants to establish CLA's for all new liquor licenses in Old City.

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- The JJ Bootlegger's CLA has been settled
- Old City District has submitted a PTI for the Bookbinder's License
- Lucha Cartel is seeking a Special Assembly Occupancy license, Captain Korn would like to negotiate a CLA
- There is a meeting scheduled this Friday with Barra regarding a CLA
- A PTI has been submitted for Blurr, an ongoing nuisance operation
- Fire & Ice got approval from L&I review, and is also now listed for sale. Some concern for the use a management agreement.
- Meeting with Senator Farnese regarding greater involvement in management agreements. This is a statewide issue and the practice needs to be fixed or abolished.

## **Economic Development Committee** - G. Copeland

- Committee is seeking Board approval of RCO Process & Procedures document. D. Goldberg offered a motion to approve. 2nd/ David Neff. All in favor, approved.
- Seeking Board motion approving of Planning Grant application for \$25,000 for the Old City Master Plan, with the intention of expending the funds needed to match grant funds if awarded, only if/when a satisfactory firm is selected by a formal RFP process. D. Goldberg offered a motion to approve. 2nd/ Avram Hornik. All in favor, approved.

## **Board Development Report:** P. Lavelle

- Next Week's City Council meeting will include nomination hearing for Dick Goldberg and Dan King.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

## **Public Comment:**

Joe Schiavo: With regards to the proposed Old City Master Plan, please consider including the area of Old City north of the bridge even though it is not within the Old City District Service Area. This area is home to many businesses and residents and is a part of Old City.

Doris Thomas: With Philly Community Access Media, invites anyone interested in being featured to reach out. They are also interested in using under-utilized properties for media production.

Janet Kalter: In listening to today's discussion of the planning grant it seemed that critical information was not made clear to everyone and it is important that everyone is fully informed of issues.

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Carlo Sena: Penn's View and Panorama are members of Phila Hotel Association, attended a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce w/ Paul Levy, Brandywine & others to discuss a proposed progressive tax amendment that is similar to the one discussed today. It would require amending the State Constitution. Majority of large CC landlords are backing it, though it is still at the grassroots level. Proponents say it would help job growth and keep taxes down.

**Adjournment:** 5:36pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21st, 2014, 4:00 pm, at 231 Market Street.**