

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 20th, 2016 4:00 pm

231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Albert Taus, Laurie Townsend Rapp, Joseph Ritchie, Timothy Snowden, Pat Lavelle, David Neff, , Peter Rothberg, Leo Addimando, Harvey Spear, Sheryl Bar, Reginald Cummings, Sonia Silverstein, Dick Goldberg, Christopher McGill, Cynthia Macleod,

Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Gregory Diehl, Brett Mapp, Gabriella Sacidor

Absent: Jafar Maleki, Lynn Martin Haskin, Luca Sena, Dan King, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Guests: Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Gina Gilliam, Peter Rathbun

Call to Order: Chairman C. McGill called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

Minutes:

- March 2016 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- S. Bar made a Motion to approve the January 2016 minutes. 2nd/ P. Lavelle. All in favor, approved.

Chairman's Report: C. McGill

- The Annual Community Report & Reception was held on Monday April 18th at the Arden Theatre. Attendance was good and the feedback was largely positive. C. McGill thanked J. Itzkowitz, staff and the Board for their hard work.
- G. Diehl has put in his notice of resignation; C. McGill thanked G. Diehl for his service as an employee of the Old City District. G. Diehl thanked the OCD Board and staff for the opportunity of working for the District.

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- Reports on assessment collections will now be included as part of the Treasurer's report.
- J. Itzkowitz held meetings with Mike Soileau of Comcast, Denise Goren of the Office of Transportation & Infrastructure Systems, Mike Carroll of the Streets Dept., and Councilman Mark Squilla. The meeting with the councilman resulted in an Old

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City Fest activities fund grant application. J. Itzkowitz also took a walking tour of Roxborough with James Calamia of the Roxborough CDC.

- New Openings: Lacquer Lounge opened at 38 N. 3rd Street, Punch Media has announced that it will relocate to Old City, and the extension of the KIZ Innovation zone to Old City was recently announced by the Mayor at a press conference in Old City.
- G. Sacidor has started her position as the Marketing & Outreach Coordinator and has been doing a great job.
- The employee handbook has been completed.
- The 231 Market lease is up for renewal and J. Itzkowitz and P. Rothberg are negotiating a new option with the landlord and will exercise the existing option. At that point staff will move forward with the office renovation.
- The 2016 Broker Happy Hour will take place on Wednesday, May 11th at 5:30 pm at the Little Lion.
- On May 18th there will be a happy hour reception for the opening of the Inside/Out program in Old City at Positano Coast which will be followed by a tour of the exhibit.
- The First Friday 25th Anniversary Celebration will take place on May 21st at La Peg.
- J. Itzkowitz thanked G. Diehl for his service as an employee of the Old City District.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

- T. Snowden reported that as of March 31st, assessment collections slightly below where they were at this point last year, but still performing ahead of budget. Notices of lateness will go out in May, June, July and liens will start to be filed in August.
- T. Snowden presented and reviewed financial statements for February and March 2016.

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Committee Reports

Marketing: S. Barr

- There was a good turnout at the Annual Meeting and Community report with about 70 guests in attendance. The reception provided a good opportunity for neighbors to connect.
- The PMA's Inside/Out exhibit has been installed in Old City and there is a website and app which allow users to view a map of the locations.
- The event planning for the First Friday 25th anniversary is under way and honors for the founding gallery owners are also being developed.
- Planning for Old City Fest 2016 has also begun.
- Old City District will sponsor a farmer's market in Old City which will be operated by the Christ Church Neighborhood House.
- Old City Eats begins June 2nd and outreach to local restaurants has begun.
- G. Sacidor has been working hard in her first month. G. Sacidor reported on social media analytics, with positive growth in all available metrics.

Clean & Safe: D. Neff

- There is a State hearing pending regarding Barra. J. Itzkowitz spoke with George Farrell of Sen. Farnese's office regarding that case.
- Representatives of Recess and the Thomas Bond House have not been able to come to an agreement. J. Grimes reviewed the PPA lease and sent suggested options to C. MacLeod who has asked NPS solicitors to review.
- After two years of monitoring usage by OPS, it has become clear that the district Taxi Stands are not being utilized, and the Committee will shift the responsibility to determine how to best utilize the spaces to the Economic Development committee.
- The Committee is also looking for opportunities to reduce the District's police overtime expenses as late-night conditions have stabilized. This will likely occur first in the winter months when activity is reduced.
- The staff continues to promote the Security Camera grant program and is gathering quotes for cameras for 231 Market Street.

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- OPS officers have been assaulted several times in the past several months, and suspects were detained but not charged. J. Itzkowitz will follow-up with Capt. Korn after speaking with OPS who has already connected with the Captain about it. P. Rothberg and H. Spear stated their belief that the District should contact Capt. Korn to demand prosecution of these individuals.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- The Vision2026 rollout event was held at the Bourse on March 30th and was well attended. The public provided much feedback & comments. The plan is being referred to as "v1.0" as it is a living document designed to incorporate continual feedback. The release garnered some press coverage including a mention in a national publication.
- The Design Guide is currently under development by RBA and will be a tool for the Old City RCO Committee.
- Implementation priorities will be the major focus of the Committee at the next meeting and moving forward.
- OCD is sponsoring Old City Green's efforts to improve the park next to the Firehouse at 4th & Arch. This is a shovel-ready Vision2026 project that can represent an early achievement. Job has been in talks with representatives of Comcast to explore their potential involvement.
- The State of Old City document is in progress and staff has just received the first draft of content. Econsult is working toward completion for release at the Broker Happy Hour event on May 11th. The doc will largely be hosted online with very limited printing.
- The Broker Happy Hour will be held at the Little Lion on May 11th at 5:30 pm. MRP and Econsult will give presentations.
- There will be an RCO Review in May after the Board Meeting for a proposed ice cream manufacturing use at 112 Market Street.

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Board Development: P. Lavelle

- P. Lavelle encourage Board members who are not yet on any Committees to join, particularly ones who are not already officers as they are needed to serve as vice-chairs.

Old Business: None.

New Business: C. MacLeod introduced G. Gilliam, the new Public Affairs office for NPS to the Board. She will serve as a liaison moving forward as J. Cowley did in the past.

Public Comment:

- J. Kalter thanked the Board for its support for the Firehouse Park project. She inquired about documentation regarding Recess's nuisance activities. J. Itzkowitz responded that the 6th District insists that noise complaints be reported via 911 and that their system prioritizes calls. He asked J. Kalter to help spread this message to the community.
- J. Schiavo reported on the progress at the Firehouse Park and inquired about an event to celebrate the project. D. Goldberg responded that the Economic Development Committee will discuss this at their next meeting in May and will coordinate with Old City Green.

Adjournment: D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/ J. Ritchie. All in favor, approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wed. May 18th, 4:00 pm, at 231 Market Street.