

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 16th 4:00 pm
231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Lynn Martin Haskin, Timothy Snowden, Pat Lavelle, David Neff, Laurie Townsend Rapp, Peter Rothberg, Luca Sena, Harvey Spear, Sheryl Bar, Reginald Cummings, Sonia Silverstein, Albert Taus, Dick Goldberg, Leo Addimando, Dan King, Christopher McGill, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Gregory Diehl

Absent: Carolyn Pfeiffer, Joseph Ritchie, Jafar Maleki

Guests: Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Peter Rathbun

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman H. Spear called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes:

- November 2015 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- P. Lavelle made a Motion to amend the November Minutes to add the following language regarding the details of the discussion held during Executive Session: “The Board discussed staff oversight and appraisals. No votes were taken”. 2nd/ D. Goldberg. All in favor, approved.

Chairman’s Report: No Report

Executive Director’s Report: J. Itzkowitz

- J. Itzkowitz reported that current year assessment collections are currently at 87% of budget goal. Prior year assessments are at 183% of budget goal.
- J. Itzkowitz attended a meeting hosted by the DNC Host Committee’s Neighborhoods Subcommittee.
- New Openings: 26 North, Gents Barbershop, Scratch Academy. The TRUST building was sold to Linode, a tech company based out of NJ. Old City Coffee has launched a line of K-cups.
- The proposed 2016 budget was previously circulated to the Board along with a memo regarding adjustments included in the new budget and both were reviewed at the November board meeting. L. Addimando offered a motion to approve of the proposed 2016 budget. 2nd/C. McGill. All in favor, approved.

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- P. Rothberg offered a motion to transfer \$200,000 to the Old City Community Fund in keeping with prior practice and at the recommendation of the District's accountants. 2nd/L. Haskin. All in favor, approved.
- The proposed 2016 Calendar was circulated and reviewed at the November Board Meeting. P. Lavelle offered a motion to approve the proposed 2016 Calendar. 2nd/D. King. All in favor, approved.
- J. Itzkowitz requested a Motion to approve of the establishment of a 401k program for the District's staff. D. Goldberg offered a motion. 2nd/L. Addimando. All in favor, approved.
- The January 2016 Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20th at 4:00 pm.
- The Annual Community Report meeting will be held later in the spring this year due to inclement weather in January. The tentative date is April 18th.
- The Old City District Office will close early on Christmas and New Year's Eves and will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Days.
- J. Itzkowitz will be out of the office from December 23rd through 31st.

Treasurer's Report: P. Rothberg

- P. Rothberg presented and reviewed financial statements for October November 2015.
- P. Rothberg thanked C. McGill and his staff for their assistance in preparing the financial reports.

Committee Reports

Marketing: S. Barr

- The Committee organized a small Holiday shopping promotion and hopes to expand upon it next year. Decorative wreaths have been installed on 3rd Street pedestrian light poles but electrification is pending approval from the Streets Department.
- The Old City locations for the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Inside Out program have been selected.
- The District hosted a community conversation regarding first Friday which was attended by over 30 business & property owners and other community members. Much of the discussion centered around the issue of illegal street vending during First Fridays and possible solutions. The Committee will continue to study and discuss this issue with the Community and City officials.
- The Outreach Coordinator position has been posted and has already received 250+ responses.

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Clean & Safe: H. Spear

- The most recent issue of Philadelphia Magazine included a positive follow-up to the 2010 article, documenting the improving conditions with regards to nightlife and nuisance activity in the neighborhood.
- The District hosted a meeting between the management of Recess, several neighbors, and representatives of the PPA. Some of the issues persist in spite of ownership's cooperation and compliance with requested changes in management practices.
- The Committee continues to negotiate requested amendments to the CLA for The Gaslight in cooperation with PLCB officials and State Senator Farnese's office.
- Barra was issued a notice to Cease & Desist from L&I but are still operating solely as a restaurant.
 - One of the owners was sentenced yesterday for an earlier charge of assaulting a SEPTA bus operator. He was sentenced to 3 days in jail and barred from any contact with neighbors of the bar. His attorneys are appealing the decision.
 - The landlord previously filed an Emergency Eviction complaint and recently filed a contempt complaint for violating the terms of their 30 day trial period.
 - There was a violations hearing at L&I which was continued to January 26th.
 - Neighbors have installed cameras facing the sidewalk and continue to observe and report.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg & J. Itzkowitz

- The Committee is moving forward with a plan to purchase and install tree guards around district trees.
- The Vision 2026 Master Plan was presented to the Steering Committee at its final meeting.
 - The public rollout will include a reception for the local community
 - Individual presentations will be given to the incoming Kenney administration and other key partners.
- J. Itzkowitz presented an overview of the Vision 2026 Master Plan document.
- D. Goldberg commended the staff for their effort during the planning process and stated that the planning consultants did an excellent job.
- D. Goldberg offered a motion to approve the Vision 2026 Master Plan in substantially similar form to what we presented today. 2nd/L. Haskin. All in favor, approved.
- P. Lavelle offered a motion directing the OCCF to expend funds not to exceed \$20,000 to engage the Vision 2026 planning consultants to develop a Design Guide for developers

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consistent with recommendations made in the Vision 2026 plan. 2nd/D. Goldberg. All in favor, approved.

- D. Goldberg offered a motion directing the OCCF to expend funds not to exceed \$2,000 to research and develop a plan for new mid-block crosswalks throughout the district, consistent with recommendations made in the Vision 2026 plan. 2nd/D. King. All in favor, approved.

Board Development: P. Lavelle

- There are four Board members whose terms expire in January 2016: C. McGill, L. Haskin, J. Maleki and C. Pfeiffer. P. Lavelle offered a Motion to nominate those four members for new 5 year terms with service subject to the 10 consecutive year limit. 2nd/D. Neff. All in favor, approved.
- Officer Elections will be held in January of 2016, Directors should make their interest in serving as officers known to P. Lavelle. There will be opportunity for additional nominations at the meeting itself.
- Committee sign-up sheets for 2016 were circulated and collected at the November Board meeting. The Marketing Committee is in need of additional Board members.
- T. Snowden's appointment has been approved by City Council and the Board welcomes his membership.
- The Committee has reached out to the Kenney administration to discuss their process regarding approval of appointees and is waiting on a response.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/ T. Snowden. All in favor, approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wed. January 20th, 4:00 pm, at 231 Market Street.