

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Jennifer Nagle, Patrick Shillenn, Timothy Snowden, Valerie Lyons, Dick Goldberg, Adam Teterus, Jonathan Dubrow, Kathryn Bittner, Ashley Peel, Betsy Oliphant Ross, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Absent: Donn Clendenon, Danielle DelRe, Donal McCoy, Gosia Primavera, Carlo Sena

Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Brett Mapp, Gabriella Sacidor

Guests: Leslie Obleschuk, Bill Arrowood

Call to Order: J. Nagle called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

Administrative Note:

- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Board meeting is being held virtually via Zoom. J. Itzkowitz advised that the meeting would be recorded and posted to the OCD website.

Minutes:

- The previous meeting's board meeting minutes were distributed via email.
- D. Goldberg made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes. 2nd/P. Shillenn. All in favor; approved.

Chair's Report: J. Nagle

- The Independence Visitor Center Corporation is working with Old City District and Mastery Charter School to provide internship opportunities at local museums in the Historic District.

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- First-round interviews are underway for the Economic Development Coordinator position. All members of the Board and members of the Economic Development committee are welcome to participate in the second-round interviews.
- Old City District is exploring MySolomon, a Customer Relationship Management system, to organize and extract value from various forms of ongoing data.
- Meetings:
 - J. Itzkowitz participated in a walking tour with Old City's new state Senator Nikil Saval.
 - J. Itzkowitz attended a meeting with Adriana Abizadeh, Executive Director of Kensington Corridor Trust.
 - J. Itzkowitz and J. Nagle attended a DVRPC steering committee meeting regarding eastbound access to the Ben Franklin Bridge.

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March 17, 2021

Page 1 of 3

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- J. Itzkowitz attended a meeting with Sean Connolly, new Executive Director of Arch Street Meeting House.
- Staff updates:
 - B. Mapp is working on assessment collections.
 - G. Sacidor is working on the website update and planning PR strategy for 2021.
- New Openings / Re-openings:
 - The National Constitution Center reopened to the public on February 12.
 - Fireman's Hall Museum reopened to the public on March 3.
 - The Independence Seaport Museum will reopen to the public on March 20.
- Dates:
 - The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21 at 4:00pm via Zoom.
 - There is an RCO meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, following the Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

- T. Snowden provided an overview of OCD's finances and assessment collection.

Committee Reports

Marketing: P. Shillenn

- OCD is continuing regular COVID-19 updates to businesses via email newsletters.
- OCD continues work with Message Agency for the website redesign process.
- Staff is finalizing the sponsorship package for 2021.
- OCD will print a neighborhood pocket map ahead of Memorial Day weekend.
- OCD partnered with Temple University's Fox School of Business for its Entrepreneurial Marketing course.
- OCD partnered with Grow with Google and other local BIDs to offer free virtual workshops for local businesses.

Clean and Safe: T. Snowden

- 312 Lounge was issued a cease operations due to Covid-19 violations.
- 222 Market is undergoing an ownership transfer of its liquor license.
- OCD has filed a Petition to Intervene (PTI) for 104 Chestnut.
- Streetplus issued its first street cleaning report.
- OCD is working to secure dumpster usage and equipment storage for Streetplus at the waterfront.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- Staff is working with JVM Studio on drafting content for the Vision2026 midpoint check-in publication, with plans to publish the digital document in spring 2021.

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Page 2 of 3

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- The new Economic Development Coordinator will further pursue the Tamanend Square project.
- OCD submitted a park management plan to the Commissioner for Public Property for Firehouse Park.
- The Historic District working group has selected a firm for a Historic District Master Plan.

Board Development: A. Teterus

- The committee will schedule a meeting to discuss potential new board members soon.

Old Business: None

New Business: B. Ross inquired about the future of the Painted Bride. J. Itzkowitz reviewed a 2018 letter written on behalf of the Old City District Board of Directors (“OCD”) in support of the arts in Old City. However, OCD takes no position regarding the disposition of the Painted Bride’s property.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

- D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/V. Lyons. All in favor; approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:44pm.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 4:00pm, via Zoom.