

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Patrick Shillenn, Donn Clendenon, Timothy Snowden, Dick Goldberg, Donal McCoy, Jonathan Dubrow, Mary Hummel, Kathryn Bittner, Ashley Peel, Lynn Haskin, Betsy Oliphant Ross, Carlo Sena, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Absent: Jennifer Nagle, Adam Teterus, Danielle DelRe, Gosia Primavera, Valerie Lyons

Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Brett Mapp, Kate McGlinchey, Gabriella Sacidor

Guests: Leslie Obleschuk

Call to Order: P. Shillenn 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:

- April 2020 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- D. Goldberg made a motion to approve the April 2020 minutes. 2nd/ L. Haskin. All in favor; approved.

Chair's Report:

- None.

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- Staff continues to focus on assisting businesses during the COVID-19 crisis. OCD continues sending out regular emails to businesses with information on funding sources, regulations, etc. OCD is also promoting businesses that are open online and for takeout.
- OCD has been helping liaise between landlords and tenants.
- The City pushed the tax collection deadline to June 15, so OCD is waiting to send out late assessment notices and will waive late charges through June 15.
- Administrative:
 - OCD has been looking at options for reopening the office and social distancing.
- Business updates:
 - A new salon, Wild Honey, is opening on the 300 block of Arch Street.
 - At least three businesses have closed.
- Meetings:
 - Staff continue to participate in relevant webinars and working groups.
 - OCD led a working group of BIDs and related organizations to draft and propose sidewalk cafe seating changes to the City.

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- J. Itzkowitz participated in a meeting of a newly formed Philadelphia BID Alliance.
- Staff updates:
 - B. Mapp is keeping up with assessments and exploring office policies for a return.
 - G. Sacidor is continuing information sharing with businesses and promotions of open businesses and working on Old City Eats.
 - K. McGlinchey is continuing to monitor government information and funding, and led drafting the proposal for cafe seating that was signed onto by 13 BIDs.
- Administrative:
 - The Board of Directors usually holds nine meetings per year, but the March meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis.
 - D. Goldberg made a motion to hold a meeting of the OCD Board of Directors on June 17, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom. 2nd/B. Ross. All in favor; approved.
- Upcoming dates:
 - The next Board of Directors meeting is June 17, 2020 at 4pm.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

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

Committee Reports

Marketing: P. Shillenn

- Staff is continuing regular communication with businesses through the B2B newsletter and is promoting open businesses.
- Staff hosted a Zoom restaurant meeting to discuss Old City Eats. Eats will return this summer in an adapted format.
- Old City businesses received several press hits for Mother's Day.
- The committee will interview two agencies under consideration for an OCD website redesign.

Clean and Safe: T. Snowden

- OPS remains on hold while bars are closed. The PPD bike officer is still patrolling OCD.
- ACAM continues working, with PPE.
- The BLIR hearing for 312 Market Street has not been rescheduled yet.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- So far 32 OCD businesses have received some form of funding from the City's small business relief fund (grants or loans). Many businesses also applied for PPP and other funding sources. OCD is continuing to help businesses identify and apply for funding.

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- OCD led a working group of BIDs and SSDs to draft and propose sidewalk cafe seating changes to the City.
- The committee is exploring ways to address anticipated future vacancy in the neighborhood as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.
- The City has issued a RFP for design work on Market Street, and staff had a call with oTIS to discuss the project.
- OCD is working on plans to hold a virtual Registered Community Organization meeting to hear projects that were originally scheduled for its March RCO meeting, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Board Development: J. Itzkowitz

- Council hearings for board resolutions are currently on hold.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

- P. Shillenn moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/D. Goldberg. All in favor; approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 4:00pm, via Zoom.