

# Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 18th 4:00 pm

231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

**In Attendance:** Lynn Martin Haskin, Timothy Snowden, Pat Lavelle, David Neff, Carolyn Pfeiffer, Laurie Townsend Rapp, Joseph Ritchie, Peter Rothberg, Luca Sena, Harvey Spear, Sheryl Bar, Reginald Cummings, Sonia Silverstein, Jafar Maleki, Albert Taus, Dick Goldberg, Cynthia Macleod, Leo Addimando, Josh Grimes (counsel)

**Staff:** Job Itzkowitz, Gregory Diehl, Brett Mapp

**Absent:** Dan King, Christopher McGill

**Guests:** Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Peter Rathbun, Danny Harvith

**Call to Order:** Chairman J. Ritchie called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

P. Lavelle offered a Motion to enter into Executive Session at 4:06 pm. 2nd/ S. Barr. All in favor, approved. The Board discussed staff oversight and appraisals. No votes were taken.

J. Itzkowitz exited the Executive Session at 4:15

D. Goldberg Moved to conclude the Executive Session at 4:26. 2nd/ L. Haskin. All in favor, approved.

## **Minutes:**

- October 2015 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- L. Addimando offered a Motion to approve of the October Minutes. 2nd/ D. Neff. 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 162% of budget goal.
- Brett has sent the OPA letter and is initiating collections actions for five accounts.
- J. Itzkowitz reported on meetings with Councilman-elect Domb, Father Florio of Old St. Joseph's Church and members of Comcast's Strategic Partnerships division.

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In addition J. Itzkowitz attended the Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange, visited Oxford Mills, presented at a Saul Ewing Impact Development event, participated in a panel discussion hosted by MPN Realty, and took a tour with the Germantown United CDC.

- New Openings: Blokes Barbershop. Millesime relocated/expanded and Scout Salvage rebranded as N3rd Collective.
- The next 2026 Master Plan Steering Committee meeting will be held on November 30th at 3pm.
- A "Conversation about First Friday" community meeting will be held in on December 8th at the Arch Street Meeting House.
- The Old City District Office will close early next week for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- G. Diehl attended a PPA presentation regarding the MeterUP! Payment app, the pilot area for which includes part of Old City.
- The December Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 4:00 pm.

## **Treasurer's Report: P. Rothberg**

- A memo regarding the proposed 2016 budget was previously circulated in the Board Packages and reviewed.
- P. Rothberg presented and reviewed financial statements for September and October 2015.

## **Committee Reports**

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

- The Committee has been working with Senator Farnese's office to negotiate several CLA amendment requests:
  - JJ Bootleggers- awaiting proposed new terms
  - The Gaslight- awaiting feedback from their attorney
  - Han Dynasty- neighbors are in opposition of requested amendments
- Philadelphia Magazine is working on a follow-up of their 2005 story about Old City's nightlife issues from that period and the changes that have occurred since.

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- There was a meeting with the Councilman Squilla's office and neighbors of Barra, which was also subject to Emergency Eviction proceedings by their landlord. It is currently operating solely as a restaurant under a 30 day trial period.
- There will be an additional meeting between Recess's management and neighbors to follow up on their operations changes. L. Haskins volunteered to attend.

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

- The Board Development Committee met prior to the Board Meeting to discuss the 2016 officer elections as well as committee membership, board recruitment, and the board member reinstatement process.
- The Board Development Committee is a committee of the whole and all Board members are encouraged to attend Committee meetings.
- The Committee proposes to shift the burden of action for reinstatement to the Director seeking reinstatement. OCD staff will notify directors via email of 2nd and 3rd absences. Upon 3rd absence, email will include instructions on seeking reinstatement.
- P. Lavelle offered a Motion to reinstate L. Sena, J. Maleki, S. Silverstein and C. Pfeiffer to the Old City District Board of Directors. 2nd/ D. Goldberg. All in favor, approved.
- Officer Elections will be held in January of 2016, Directors should consider their interest in serving as officers.
- Committee sign-up sheets for 2016 were circulated and collected.

## **Marketing:** S. Barr

- Holiday lights are up on Market Street, and a test of the new decorations for 3rd Street has been installed. Streets approval is pending for installation and the electrification of the poles is in process.
- There will be an interactive light show in the front window of the OCD office on two Fridays during the Holiday Shopping season by members of the local tech community.
- There will be a public meeting to discuss First Friday held on December 8th at the Arch Street Meeting House.

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## **Economic Development:** D. Goldberg

- The Vision 2026 Draft Recommendations were presented to the public on October 26th at a meeting at the Arch Street Meeting House, followed by breakout sessions to solicit community feedback.
- The plan will result in additional planning in addition to immediately implementable projects.
- The final Vision 2026 Steering Committee Meeting will be held on November 30th.
- A group of residents in the 'Franklin North' neighborhood are exploring starting a civic association for the neighborhood and are interested in aspects of the Vision 2026 plan. D. King has volunteered to serve as liaison to that organization.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>/L. Addimando. All in favor, approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wed. December 16th, 4:00 pm, at 231 Market Street.**