

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2019 4:00 pm
231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Lynn Haskin, Dick Goldberg, Betsy Oliphant Ross, Timothy Snowden, Patrick Shillenn, Danielle DelRe, Donal McCoy, Peter Rothberg, Mary Hummel, Carlo Sena, Jennifer Nagle, Adam Teterus, Albert Taus, Ashley Peel, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Absent: Donn Clendenon, Christopher McGill, Joseph Ritchie

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

Guests: Erik Derr, Mike Slobodian, Patrick Suddath, Rob Wonderling, Diana Kirsch, Marc Harris, Jonathan Dubrow

Call to Order: P. Rothberg called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Minutes:

- July 2019 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- L. Haskin made a motion to approve the July 2019 minutes. 2nd/ D. DelRe. All in favor; approved.

Special Business

- Rob Wonderling from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce presented on the Chamber's Roadmap for Growth.

Chairman's Report: None

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- Meetings of interest:
 - OCD has been working on a partnership with AARP, and J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey have been participating in AARP's Livable Communities meetings.
 - J. Itzkowitz and G. Sacidor attended the flag-raising at the Marriott.
 - J. Itzkowitz had an intro and follow-up meeting with Bill Marrazzo of Independence Historical Trust and WHY.
 - J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey met with Liz Hersh of the Office of Homeless Services.
 - Hada Kuznits interviewed J. Itzkowitz about Old City Eats and OCD's pedestrian counters.
 - J. Itzkowitz met with PACDC and a group of BID directors to discuss ways to build a BID working group.
 - J. Itzkowitz spoke with John Chin and Chinatown CDC regarding liquor control issues.
 - J. Itzkowitz met with the area's new L&I supervisor, John Keenan.

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- OCD hosted a Neighborhood Listening Session with over 200 attendees to address issues around homelessness and panhandling in the neighborhood.
- J. Itzkowitz continues to participate in ULI Next.
- J. Itzkowitz met with Councilmember Squilla and local businesses to discuss vacancies and storefronts.
- J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey spoke with Joshua Rocks from DVRPC about a potential data sharing partnership.
- J. Itzkowitz is participating in the City's Transportation Data road map working group.
- J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey met with Nordsense, a Danish company that makes smart trash can sensors.
- Staff updates:
 - B. Mapp completed more accounting courses and continues to receive training, he started a financial statements class this week.
 - G. Sacidor organized and led a Grow with Google presentation for businesses on Monday, which had 50 attendees.
 - K. McGlinchey organized the Neighborhood Listening Session in August and has been working on grant renewals.
- New openings:
 - The Wellness Refinery opened on Church Street.
 - Smokeland opened on Market Street.
 - Burrito Bonito opened next door on Market.
 - Jolly's Piano Bar transitioned to Old City Oyster Bar.
 - Chef Chris Kearse opened Forsythia in the former Capofitto space.
 - Wallace and Nyland Physical Therapy opened on Arch Street.
 - The Marriot changed its brand.
- Resolution:
 - J. Itzkowitz presented a resolution honoring Captain O'Hanlon for his responsiveness to the neighborhood's concerns.
 - D. Goldberg made a motion to approve the resolution. 2nd/A. Teterus. All in favor; approved.
- Upcoming dates:
 - There is an RCO meeting tonight at 5:15pm.
 - Old City Fest will take place on October 13th.
 - The next Board of Directors meeting will be on October 16th.
 - The Board Development Committee will now meet on October 16th at 3pm.
 - The Old City Tree Lighting will take place on December 5th.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

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

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Committee Reports

Marketing: P. Shillenn

- The Marketing Committee is reviewing the OCD website and planning for a redesign, including an improved mobile site.
- OCD hosted a Grow with Google workshop with 50 attendees, which received good feedback.
- Registration for the OCD brochure is wrapping up.
- Work on Old City Fest continues.
- Historic Holiday Nights will kick off on Small Business Saturday with a window decorating contest, and the Tree Lighting will be on December 5th.

Clean and Safe: T. Snowden

- 312 Market's Special Assembly Occupancy License was revoked. They remain open while they appeal the decision. The first BLIR hearing ran out of time, and there will be a second hearing this fall.
- 240 Market Street and OCD agreed on a Conditional Licensing Agreement, which was significantly altered by the PLCB. OCD and the applicant are now working on an agreement outside of the CLA.
- ACAM received training in needle pickup from Prevention Point.
- Captain O'Hanlon assigned a bike cop to Old City in response to concerns expressed at the Neighborhood Listening Session.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- OCD purchased a 3rd Eco-Counter pedestrian counter, and met with DVRPC about partnering on data projects.
- OCD is working on an internal retail vacancy inventory. Job is talking to PACDC and the City about potential strategies to deal with vacant storefronts.
- OCD submitted proposed signage updates to Center City District's Walk Philadelphia program, and the signs should be updated in the next few months.
- OCD is engaged in a conversation with the ownership interests for Dolly Ottey Park to explore options and next steps.
- Old City Green continues to move the Commerce Street project along, working with OCD and the City to deal with encroachments and move forward with design.
- OCD met with the National Park Service about the Park at 2nd and Market and reached an agreement on a concept design. OCD also met with the Independence Historical Trust and presented on the park and other initiatives. OCD and IHT are currently figuring out how best to work together on these goals.

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Board Development: A. Teterus

- The Board Development Committee will meet on October 16th to interview Valerie Lyons for a potential board seat.
- Leo Addimando resigned from the OCD board due to other commitments.
- D. Goldberg made a motion thanking Leo for his service. 2nd/L. Haskin. All in favor; approved.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Executive Session:

- D. Goldberg made a motion at 4:53pm to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. 2nd/P. Shillenn. All in favor; approved.
- D. Goldberg made a motion to exit executive session at 5:09pm. 2nd/A. Peel. All in favor; approved.

Adjournment:

- D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/A. Peel. All in favor; approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 4:00pm, at 231 Market Street.