



## **MBA Board Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2022**

H. Arata called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Sandy Baggot, Ally Britton, Don Connolly, Tim D'Ignazio, Laura Graham, Elizabeth Romaine, Brittany Scharr, David Sibley, Lexi Stolberg, Michael Straw

Absent: Ed Blanchard

**Consent Agreement:** M. Straw motion that MBA minutes list names with votes for and against. Discussion of pros & cons – possible chilling effect on votes, public objections for a small volunteer board, currently there's the option to comment and add comments regarding voting decision. L. Romaine comment that Council not currently tallying names. M. Straw withdrew motion for overall change to minutes policy. Motion to add names to November minutes (only) and approval of amended minutes and financial report. Unanimous approval.

**Comments from the Chair/Retail Update** – Pinocchio Beer Garden 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Small Business Saturday – Snow globe deflated, large chair photo opportunity substituted, probably preference for the future.

Horse-drawn carriage volunteers are needed to assist with check-in etc.

**Treasurer's Report** – Written reports distributed. D. Sibley question regarding attorney invoice – trademark protection for Everybody's Hometown.

**Secretary's Comments** – Santa Parade canceled due to weather but modified 'block party' held at community center.

Hot Chocolate scheduled for 12/17 courtesy of Ocean City Coffee.

**Executive Director Report** – Written report distributed.

Lamppost signs – 27 sales (31 signs). Dec 14 will feature Hedgerow and Media Chorale. Dec 17 Penncrest Choir. Pop-up event by Bluebird Distilling was very popular.

Two more weeks of carriage rides scheduled – popular activity despite protesters from outside Media. Discussion of protests followed, social media campaigns, etc. Aprox 12 individuals were on-site, but many more messages were received by MBA. Decision was made not to respond. Media Police were very cooperative.

Volunteers needed for cleaning and organizing Baltimore Garage.

Ice on State – online order form is live. Board members encouraged to promote and recruit participants. Potential for non-profits, perhaps fundraising opportunities. Discussion of a postcard with QR code as a promotional hand-out.

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**Borough Liaison** – Budget vote expected at next meeting. Anticipate millage and parking and enforcement increases. Potentially revamping permits, discussion of parking for employees.

There will be a vote to move Plum Street construction project to 2024.

Discussion about tax collection agency checking on Mercantile/Business Privilege Tax Rolls.

**Old Business** – No old business.

**New Business/Open Discussion** – L. Graham suggested follow-up of PDC presentation – discussion of special meeting vs. part of regular Board meeting. Consensus to continue discussion after new year.

Plastic bag and straw ban takes effect Jan 1, with enforcement expected in July. Reminder to businesses. Re-useable bag giveaway and good communication currently in progress. Possibly MBA or borough agent to put emphasis on this.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Meeting re-opened, D. Sibley motion to approve year-end bonuses for MBA staff as agreed in executive session. Unanimous approval.

M. Straw motion to adjourn; unanimous approval at 8:18 PM.

Next meeting January 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by David Sibley, 1/20/23