



MBA Board Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2023

Call to Order: H. Arata called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

Present: Heather Arata, Sandy Baggott, Don Connolly, Tim D'Ignazio, Dave Fairman, Liz Romaine, Brittany Scharr, Michael Straw

Absent: Ed Blanchard, Ally Britton, Stu Eli, Laura Graham, David Sibley

Guest: Michelle West - Bittersweet Kitchen

Consent Agreement: Motion to approve March Meeting Minutes and March 2023 Financial Report

Brittany Scharr motion to approve, seconded by Don Connolly. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Michelle West wanted to stop by and say hello; L. Romaine invited her to attend the meeting, she also spoke with H. Arata and D. Connolly recently.

Comments from the Chair/Retail Update:

Bittersweet celebrated their 8th anniversary, Magic Threads Consignment celebrated their 5th anniversary, and Kenny's Flower Shoppe celebrated their 4th anniversary. Poké Ono has closed. In general, business is down during the month of April.

Vice Chair Comments:

Volunteer front has been the primary focus, how the organization builds a program, access, and attract talent. D. Connolly distributed a document he created. L. Graham had suggested a shared google drive where board members could share information and thoughts back-and-forth.

Heather Arata: "does a Google Drive collaboration fall under the "Sunshine" Laws?" L. Romaine will check with the Borough solicitor to see what could be done for possible digital conversation.

D. Connolly created and sent to D. Fairman a concept for a social media campaign based around the benefits of volunteering to different groups and demographics. Possible incentives may include meal vouchers, t-shirts, etc.

Treasurer's Comments:

D. Fairman: Many of the fees for DUTS came in for March, putting us in good financial position for the end of the 1st Quarter. Most restaurants paid in advance for the season, four restaurants have elected to pay monthly; waiting to hear back from two others.

Secretary's Comments: No report from the Secretary.

Executive Director Report:

Written report distributed.

What's the update for 32 W. State Street? (D. Connolly)
Front half of the first floor will be retail (infant store). Rear half is currently planned as a kitchen and prep space for the food truck operation (Rivalry on State).

What were Brick & Brew discussions about?
They wanted to include Whisky Wagon for DUTS. LCB paperwork is in place.

What were discussions with Media Real Estate about parking?
Exploring options to try and ease parking issues in town.

Admin. Assistant Report: D. Fairman gave the report.

L. Stolberg should be back at MBA meetings starting in May.

Spending time on DUTS planning. Vetting bands for all 22 weeks for DUTS.

(L. Romaine) Since we don't have a fully baked volunteer solution for DUTS, what is the short-term solution?

D. Fairman: He will be working to get assistance for the first two weeks. Media resident and local Realtor John Knisley would be interested in assisting and possibly being a "crew chief."

Borough Council Liaison: E. Romaine

Mini task force about parking being created. What can we affect and what can we not affect?

The best type of feedback the Council can get from the businesses is quality over quantity. Data-based and specific points will help the Council move forward with the parking challenges.

Can we look at the price of the parking tickets (as an example from one business)?

Guest: Michelle West, concerned there could be a PR issue in terms of the parking ticket cost. Would be happy to be a part of an information campaign to be a part of the parking app.

D. Connolly suggested creating a MBA newsletter with information where we could communicate issues to businesses and customers, example: parking.

April 24, 2023 Minutes – Page 3

H. Arata suggested graphics and information about the parking app on social media/everywhere.

D. Connolly question about SEPTA's trolley plans, regarding how it will impact parking.

L. Romaine: Very little change, only taking areas at the ends of the streets where platforms are going to be put in place. At the earliest this would occur in 2025.

Plastic Bag/Plastic Straw Ban goes into effect on July 1st, 2023

Pride Parade will be June 3rd, 2023. It will shut down streets on a Saturday. 9am-1pm. Business community needs to know since it's not a Borough event. Host organization is reaching out to local businesses to get partnerships.

Media-Upper Providence Free Library will also be hosting an event on June 3rd, 2023. They will be taking over Jasper Street near the library.

The Borough hired Jennifer Metzger as the Recreation Director. Bigger position in scope. She may be able to assist with the VisitMediaPA website events calendar.

Old Business: No new business.

New Business/Open Discussion

M. Straw: At the Community Development Meeting, M. Straw was informed that the C.D. Committee would like to send the MBA specific examples of signs regarding sign ordinance recommendations.

M. Straw: board member financial interest statement forms time of year?

D. Fairman has them and will be finding out if they are actually required.

Motion to Adjourn by T. D'Ignazio and seconded by S. Baggot. Motion unanimous.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Prepared by M. Straw – revisions by D. Sibley