



MBA Board Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2023

H. Arata called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Dave Fairman, Tim D'Ignazio, Elizabeth Romaine, Brittany Scharr, David Sibley, Michael Straw

Absent: Sandy Baggott, Ed Blanchard, Ally Britton, Don Connolly, Stu Eli, Laura Graham

Guest: Hoi Michael Cheung

Consent Agreement: Lack of quorum; approval of 6/27/23 meeting minutes and 6/30/23 financials tabled until August meeting. Discussion of what constitutes a quorum.

Guest Presentation: Discussion of Chinese New Year celebration (Feb 10, 2024). H.M. Cheung reported that the former school that performed the Lion Dance has closed. Other groups contacted are already booked. A former student of the closed school is willing to do it – waiting to determine a price to see if the idea is viable. Initial interest has already been expressed by Media businesses and potential sponsors. Discussion followed re: police involvement and potential sponsors, suggestion to brand it 'Lunar New Year' to broaden appeal.

Comments from the Chair/Retail Update – Met with Properly Pressed. Impressive, organized and good juices.

Bizzie's Baby Boutique is hoping for August launch (former Murray Overhill location).

Cafésphere making progress but no date set for opening.

Treasurer's Report – Written reports distributed. Budget is in pretty good shape. Excess funds moved from WSFS Checking account to higher interest yielding FMFCU Savings account.

DUTS police payments are current through June and on track as budgeted. Participating DUTS restaurant payments are mostly caught up.

Car Show sponsorships were not originally projected in budget – this surplus offsets the lost income budgeted for the recognition reception which was not held this year.

In addition, some equipment was ordered, needed for MBA's use.

Executive Director Report – Written report distributed.

Meeting planned to meet with Foundation for Delaware County to discuss 501(c)(3) options that would benefit downtown.

Administrative Assistant report – A. Stolberg has been working two days per week, doing a great job. Discussion followed of some possible staffing changes.

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Borough Liaison – Need to report to Borough Council the results of the DUTS survey. 22 participating restaurants responded, and 17 other businesses (non-restaurants). 68% of restaurants responded in favor of October dates, but only 50% in favor of paying for extra dates. Discussion followed. Will recommend to Council for two additional Wednesdays in October specifically as weather make-up dates this year only. Not official until MBA Board approval at August meeting.

New Business/Open Discussion – H. Arata thanked L. Romaine for helping with the DUTS survey.

Discussion of ‘Merch’ tent staffing / volunteers / timing.

M. Straw reported that Van Gogh Salon has been renovated and expanded.

M. Straw commented that one non-profit exhibitor at DUTS was politically directed and drew a lot of commentary. Recommendation to avoid political groups.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Next meeting August 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by David Sibley, 8/15/23