



## **MBA Board Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2024**

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

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Sandy Baggot, Ally Britton, Tim D'Ignazio, Stu Eli, Dave Fairman, Vanessa McGuinn, Elizabeth Romaine, Brittany Scharr, David Sibley

Absent: Don Connolly, Michael Straw

Guests: Dane Czaplicki – Founders Wealth. Hoi Michael Cheung – Lion Dance.

**Consent Agreement:** T. D'Ignazio motion to accept December 2023 Minutes and Financial Report. Unanimous approval.

**Comments from the Chair:** Motion to proceed with application for Nonprofit Fiscal Sponsorship with Foundation for Delaware County. Allows donations to be 501(c)3 contributions. Foundation will manage the finances for a 7% fee. Not a long-term contract. D. Sibley motion to proceed with application, unanimous approval.

Homesewn is expanding to hold classes on the second floor.

**Vice Chair Report** – Executive committee met, and D. Connolly is working to develop committees structure, more info to follow.

**Lion Dance** – H. M. Cheung reported on plans for the Lion Dance 2/10/24. Group is traveling from N. Carolina for the performance and includes students from previous years who have done it here before. Recent site visit to plan the route for the dancers. Coordination with Police and Borough Manager to ensure safety for observers. Discussion of tip amounts and who is participating.

**Treasurer's Report** – Written reports distributed. 2023 budget originally projected a loss but the year ended with a minor profit.

**Secretary's Report** – Off The Rail ribbon cutting, interior renovations give a restaurant vibe. More renovations still to come.

Spring Restaurant Week is April 7-13.

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

Participated in discussions with other municipal business support representatives, hosted by Delco Chamber.

Ice On State went well, not profitable yet but building each year, expect bigger next year. Weather was not ideal but foot traffic for the weekend was definitely increased. May change date next year, but opinions that MLK holiday weekend is a plus. Strolling characters were very popular.

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Fall Fest will be October 6 with rain date 10/13. Megan Woody will be returning to manage the event.

Dining Under the Stars permit application needs to be submitted for Wednesdays May 1 – Sep 25. Discussion of adding additional days for weather contingency, and discussions of refunds, pricing, etc. D. Sibley motion for Wednesdays only with no October dates in the permit. Unanimous approval.

**Administrative Assistant's Report** – Santa 101 Trolley got great response. Drone footage will be used for promotion next year. On a separate visit, Santa took photos in many stores, next year photo shoot will be more organized.

Lamppost campaign was well-received, but hoping for more participation.

Ball Drop went off well. Timing was 'spot-on'. Selfie frame worked out well.

Website updates for calendar of events, etc.

Spring Art Show oversight of managers.

Restaurant Week website updates.

**New Business** – S. Eli requested a year-in-review video. Board should send highlights of the year.

S. Eli asked about the kiosk calendars – these are updated twice per year.

B. Scharr reported Media Food Bank needs new space to operate from. Looking for sponsors and locations.

B. Scharr reported that Be The Joy Foundation will be placing a memorial bench for Laura Graham at Plum Street Mall upon completion of design plans.

L. Romaine and M. Straw are sponsoring cat adoption at Providence Animal Center in honor of L. Graham as a cat lover.

H. Arata reported that upon her passing, L. Graham saved five lives through organ donation.

S. Baggot motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Next meeting February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by David Sibley, 2/22/24