

# Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

**In Attendance:** Jennifer Nagle, Lynn Martin Haskin, Patrick Shillenn, Dick Goldberg, Timothy Snowden, Adam Teterus, Betsy Oliphant Ross, Donn Clendenon, Valerie Lyons, Kathryn Bittner, Donal McCoy, Jonathan Dubrow, Ashley Peel, Josh Grimes (counsel)

**Absent:** Carlo Sena, Danielle DelRe, Gosia Primavera

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

**Guests:** Leslie Obleschuk, Councilmember Mark Squilla, Jeannette Brugger

**Call to Order:** J. Nagle called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

## **Administrative Note:**

- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Board meeting is being held virtually via Zoom. J. Itzkowitz advised that the meeting would be recorded and posted to the OCD website.

## **Minutes:**

- The previous meeting's board meeting minutes were distributed via email.
- L. Haskin made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup>/P. Shillenn. All in favor; approved.

## **Chair's Report:** J. Nagle

- J. Nagle thanked Lynn Martin Haskin for her years of service on the Board and introduced Councilmember Mark Squilla.

## **Special Business:**

- Councilmember Squilla presented a City Council citation honoring Lynn Martin Haskin for her years of service on the Old City District Board of Directors.

## **Executive Director's Report:** J. Itzkowitz

- OCD has signed a lease addendum per last month's authorization, which reduces office rent and makes the lease month-to-month while OCD looks for a new office space.
- Old City was featured in an Inquirer article about businesses opening and closing during the pandemic.
- Meetings will be covered in the committee reports.
- Staff updates:
  - B. Mapp has been handling the 2021 invoices, 2020 liens, and working on the Streetplus transition.
  - G. Sacidor has been working on OCD's holiday promotions, lightings, and the website update.

Minutes prepared by K. McGlinchey

December 17, 2020

Page 1 of 4

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- K. McGlinchey has been working on the proposal for the Vision2026 midpoint check-in publication, and testified at City Council about the impact of the pandemic on businesses.
- New Businesses:
  - Angelo Pizza, Midnight Lunch, Kindercare, and Cafe Couleur all officially opened since the last meeting.
- Administration:
  - The 2021 OCD meeting calendar has been circulated and needs approval.
  - D. Goldberg made a motion to approve the 2021 calendar. 2nd/B. Oliphant Ross. All in favor; approved.
  - J. Grimes presented a proposed document retention and destruction policy for OCD.
  - D. Goldberg made a motion to adopt the policy. 2nd/T. Snowden. All in favor; approved.
- Upcoming dates:
  - The next Board of Directors meeting is on January 20, 2021 at 4pm.
  - The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's.

## **Special Business:**

- Jeannette Brugger from the Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (oTIS) presented a proposed plan for a bike lane on Race Street.
- D. Goldberg made a motion to support oTIS's proposed plan. 2nd/P. Shillenn. All in favor; approved.

## **Treasurer's Report:** T. Snowden

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

## **Committee Reports**

### **Marketing:** P. Shillenn

- The Marketing Committee did not meet this month.
- Staff and committee members met with Message Agency for the first discovery meeting of the OCD website redesign.
- OCD continues to pitch media stories for holiday promotions and has enjoyed positive earned media coverage so far this month.
- The virtual tree lighting was streamed live on Facebook and simulcast live on 6abc, as well as receiving coverage on all major local TV outlets. The virtual menorah lighting was also streamed on Facebook, and was featured on the front page of both the Inquirer and the Daily News.

Minutes prepared by K. McGlinchey

December 17, 2020

Page 2 of 4

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- OCD hosted a second meeting with Old City galleries to discuss the 30th anniversary of First Friday next year.
- OCD is working on its 2021 sponsorship package.

## **Clean and Safe:** T. Snowden

- OCD is hiring OPS as needed during the winter months.
- OCD signed the contract with Streetplus starting January 1st. J. Itzkowitz & B. Mapp met this afternoon with the new supervisor.

## **Economic Development:** K. McGlinchey

- Old First Reformed United Church of Christ is moving forward with building a permanent shelter on its premises. The proposal already obtained Historical Commission approval and is otherwise proceeding by-right. Old First Reformed is now seeking a support letter from OCD for funding for the project. A draft letter was circulated with the board package.
  - P. Shillenn made a motion to adopt the draft support letter in principle subject to appropriate editing by the staff. 2nd/B. Oliphant Ross. All in favor; approved.
- Staff presented a proposal for a Vision2026 midpoint digital publication at the last committee meeting, and the committee decided to move forward with it. OCD is negotiating with JVM Studio and will hopefully begin work this week.
- The updated storefront inventory numbers show an increase in vacancy throughout the neighborhood over the last year, although there has been a spate of business openings over the last month. Staff contacted owners/representatives for 20 properties to see if they would be interested in participating in a window art activation project for vacant spaces, but only two properties were interested.
- OCD is reviewing updated lease terms from The National for Dolly Ottey Park, and the developer is figuring out operational items in light of city funds not being available until 2022 at the earliest.
- OCD expects a proposal for the Tamanend Statue project from Monument Lab this month.

## **Board Development:** A. Teterus

- No update.

## **Old Business:** None

## **New Business:**

- P. Shillenn thanked the staff for all of their work in 2020.

## **Public Comment:** None

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## **Adjournment:**

- B. Oliphant Ross moved to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>/D. Clendenon. All in favor; approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 4:00pm, via Zoom.**