

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 18th, 2018 4:00 pm
231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Christopher McGill, Peter Rothberg, Lynn Haskin, Timothy Snowden, Patrick Shillenn, Dick Goldberg, Donn Clendenon, Donal McCoy, Danielle DelRe, Joseph Ritchie, Mary Hummel, Albert Taus, Jennifer Nagle, Carlo Sena, Ashley Peel, Adam Teterus, Josh Grimes (counsel)

Absent: Leo Addimando

Staff: Job Itzkowitz, Brett Mapp, Kate McGlinchey

Guests: Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Marc Harris, David Hansell, George Pomerantz

Call to Order: C. McGill called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Minutes:

- May 2018 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- D. Goldberg made a motion to approve the May 2018 minutes with an amendment marking Josh Grimes as present. 2nd/ L. Haskin. All in favor; approved.

Special Business:

- David Hansell and George Pomerantz presented an overview of findings from OCD's audit.
- P. Rothberg made a motion to approve the auditors' report subject to final review. 2nd/J. Ritchie. All in favor; approved.

Chairman's Report: C. McGill

- OCD held its reauthorization public hearing on Monday, July 16th.

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- J. Itzkowitz updated the board on the Chestnut Street fire. OCD was unsuccessful in its effort to qualify the impacted area for state disaster relief because the number of uninsured and underinsured businesses did not meet the threshold requirements. Some of the affected businesses have reopened and others are under renovation.
- Meetings:
 - The Neighborhood Listening Session that OCD cohosted with Councilman Squilla and Franklin Bridge North Neighbors was successful.
 - J. Itzkowitz presented to the Drexel retail class – students in the class designed four store windows in Old City as part of their final project.
 - J. Itzkowitz attended two CPDC presentations
 - Staff attended the Linode ribbon cutting.
 - Staff attended the PACDC membership meeting.

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- J. Itzkowitz participated in citywide holiday discussions.
- J. Itzkowitz spoke on a Klehr Harrison panel regarding registered community organizations.
- Staff updates:
 - All staff have been working on the 5 Year Plan and Old City Eats.
 - B. Mapp has been working on the brochure.
 - K. McGlinchey has been working on public space projects and public meetings.
- New openings:
 - Roule Rolled Ice Cream opened at 311 Market Street, Tomo Sushi & Ramen opened at 228 Arch Street, Opportunity Barks opened at 38 S 3rd Street, Ardiente opened at 33 S 2nd Street, The Nauti Mermaid opened at 110 Chestnut Street, and Omoi Zakka reopened at 41 S 3rd Street after closing for repairs following the Chestnut Street fire.
- Administrative:
 - The 5 Year Plan and Budget has been approved and mailed out to Old City business and property owners. The public hearing was held on Monday, July 16th, and the objection period began on July 17th and runs through August 30th. The bills for the 5 Year Plan and the reauthorization extension for OCD will be introduced in City Council in the fall.
 - OCD staff will begin drafting committee budgets in August to start the 2019 budget process.
- Upcoming dates:
 - There is an RCO meeting following today's board meeting for 124-126 N 2nd Street.
 - There is a 6:30pm public meeting tonight to discuss the Park at 2nd & Market.
 - OCD's next RCO meeting is August 1st at 5:15pm.
 - The next Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, September 20th, 2018 at 4pm. There is no August Board meeting, and the September meeting will be on a Thursday due to the Wednesday holiday.

Point of Information: C. McGill

- C. McGill mentioned that several board members are working on organizing informal meetings around board development to help new members acclimate.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

- T. Snowden provided an overview of OCD's finances and assessment collection.
- J. Itzkowitz noted a few points of interest in the budget:
 - In its new 5 Year Plan & Budget, OCD will switch from assuming a 95% assessment collection rate to assuming a 90% collection rate, in line with similar BIDs in Philadelphia.

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- Legal costs have been higher this year due to work around the easement for Dolly Ottey Park.
- OCD assessed 500 Walnut in 2018 according to OPA's provided data. The property values from OPA have since been rescinded, which may end up impacting this year's collection rate.

Committee Reports

Marketing: P. Shillenn

- The Old City Eats Block Party had around 4,000 attendees, an increase from last year. 19 Old City businesses participated, and the event received significant media coverage.
- Maven Communications has helped OCD businesses get several media spots recently.
- Sponsorships have started to come in for Old City Fest, and OCD is working on shifting registration online.
- OCD is working on creating a stand alone map for this year's brochure.
- The Committee has started early planning for Small Business Saturday and the holidays.

Clean and Safe: T. Snowden

- J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey met with David Holloman from the City's Office of Homeless Services to discuss approaches to homelessness and panhandling, including the outreach hotline and the text to give campaign.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- OCD is working with the Clean Air Council on a bike rack program for Old City businesses.
- J. Itzkowitz, K. McGlinchey, and Jonas Maciunas met with the City about Market Street. The City is moving the project forward and pursuing additional funding resources for this project with periodic check-in meetings with OCD.
- OCD started the community concept design process for the park at 2nd & Market Streets, with funding through a state grant obtained with the help of Senator Farnese's office. Jonas (JVM Studio) is serving as the design lead, working with Ground Reconsidered and Think.Urban.
- OCD, Buccini/Pollin Group, and the Elfreth's Alley Association met with Councilman Squilla to discuss design elements of Dolly Ottey Park.
- Joe Schiavo provided an update regarding Commerce Street. Old City Green held the first task force meeting for this project, and will hold a second one in August.

Point of Information: C. McGill

- C. McGill asked for an update on the text alert system. J. Itzkowitz and K. McGlinchey provided an update on business sign-ups and usage.

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Board Development: P. Rothberg

- Board Development has tentatively schedule a meeting in August.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- C. Sena asked if there are any planned improvements to the Market Street ramps. J. Itzkowitz stated that the City has a contractor in place for ramp improvements along Market Street over Bank, Bodine, Letitia, and Strawberry Streets.

Public Comment:

- Janet Kalter asked if there are any updates about parking under the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. J. Itzkowitz answered that the most recent update OCD received was that work would begin sometime in the fall.

Adjournment:

- D. Goldberg moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd/T. Snowden. All in favor, approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20th, 2018 at 4pm., at 231 Market Street.