

Minutes of the Old City District Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 4:00 pm
231 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance: Christopher McGill, Timothy Snowden, Leo Addimando, Sheryl Bar, Peter Rothberg, Reggie Cummings, Dick Goldberg, Pat Lavelle, David Neff, Luca Sena, Sonia Silverstein, Harvey Spear, Laurie Townsend-Rapp, Joe Ritchie, Albert Taus, Josh Grimes (counsel)

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

Absent: Lynn Haskin, Dan King

Guests: Joe Schiavo, Janet Kalter, Mary Hummel, Gina Gilliam, Mark Harris

Call to Order: C. McGill

Other Business:

- C. McGill requested an Executive Session at 4:00pm to discuss pending litigation.
- P. Lavelle made a Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. 2nd/ D. Neff. All in favor.
- P. Lavelle made a Motion to exit Executive Session at 4:14pm. 2nd/J. Ritchie. All in favor.

Minutes:

- September 2016 board meeting minutes were previously distributed via email.
- J. Ritchie made a Motion to approve the September 2016 minutes. 2nd/ D. Neff. All in favor; approved.

Chairman's Report: C. McGill

- Old City Fest was a success. C. McGill recognized staff and the committee for their effort.

Executive Director's Report: J. Itzkowitz

- Old City Fest went well despite inclement weather. Over 15,000 people attended.
- Strategy: J. Itzkowitz & K. McGlinchey are researching the possibility of converting OCCF to a CDC.
- Staff & S. Bar met with Gail Bowers regarding sponsorships and next year's Fest.
- J. Itzkowitz spoke with staff in Rep. O'Brien & Sen. Farnese's offices regarding potential state grant money for OCD projects.
- J. Itzkowitz met with Colonial Penn regarding the property behind 399 Market Street, and with the developer of The National regarding Flagpole Park.
- J. Itzkowitz & A. Taus met with the Streets Department regarding the upcoming project to install improved crosswalks across Bank, Bodine, Letitia, & Strawberry Streets.
- New openings/development: Financial-software firm Asset Map is moving into the Bourse from Bala Cynwyd. Four members of the Old City business community were named to Philadelphia

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Business Journal's "Power 76" ranking: Jose Garces of Garces Group, Rick Nucci of Guru, Stephen Starr of Starr Restaurants and Ellen Yin of High Street Hospitality Group.

- Administrative: Office renovation is mostly completed. Staff reviews other than J. Itzkowitz are completed.
- J. Itzkowitz gave an overview of the upcoming budget for OCD.
- Upcoming dates: Small Business Saturday November 26th.
- Next Board of Directors meeting is Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 at 4pm.

Treasurer's Report: T. Snowden

- T. Snowden reported that OCD is ahead of last year's collection rate for assessments.
- T. Snowden provided a further overview of the upcoming OCD budget.

Committee Reports

Marketing: S. Bar

- S. Bar thanked staff and board members for their work on Old City Fest 2016, circulated press coverage.
- B. Mapp provided an update on the 2017 OCD Brochure.
- G. Sacidor reported on social media, with positive growth on all platforms and a significant boost during Fest.
- Marketing is working on holiday plans and a winter restaurant event.
- The Committee to hold ribbon cutting for Firehouse Park this month.

Clean & Safe: D. Neff

- There is a new CLA for the restaurant at Bridge.
- The PTI that OCD filed for 312 Market Street was denied due to lack of standing, but staff will set up a meeting with the applicant's lawyers to discuss their plans.
- Clean & Safe held a follow-up meeting with Bleu Martini and Lieut. Gallagher, the location has been incident free for the last two months.
- L&I shut down the illegal nightclub operating at 108 Chestnut; the owner has now applied for a zoning permit that will require a variance and must go through the RCO.

Economic Development: D. Goldberg

- Civic Checklist is complete and will be distributed for RCO meetings.
- The Design Guide draft will be reviewed this week by staff.
- Preliminary discussions are underway for the Christ Church Park project; awaiting proposal from RBA.
- J. Itzkowitz reported that the traffic study is underway in Old City. A steering committee will be formed after consultation with the Streets Department.

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- There are tentatively two RCO presentations for November's meeting – 205 Race & 108 Chestnut.

Board Development: P. Lavelle

- The Board Development Committee will meet at 3pm on Wednesday, November 16th (before the November Board Meeting) to review the list of potential new members.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment:

- J. Kalter reported that Cpt. Ryan is encouraging people to register their security cameras with the City's SafeCam program. It could be helpful for OCD to have a campaign encouraging businesses to sign up for this.

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 at 4pm., at 231 Market Street.