

Downtown Providence District Management Authority

Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2006 1:30pm

Board Members Present: Maria Ruggieri, Michael Corso, Robert Gagliardi, Stanley Weiss, Richard Lappin, Joe DiBattistia, Frank LaTorre, DID Director of Public Space; Leslie Huikko, DID Office Manager; Frank Zammarelli, DID Operations Manager; Gary Ferraro, Regional Manager for Block-By-Block.

1. Special Projects

There is \$36,000 remaining for special projects in the FY2005-6 budget.

Priorities for remainder of FY 2005-06

- \$10,000 for brick sidewalk “emergency” repairs**
- Flower planters project with Groundwork Providence \$14,000 for 2 of the 3 scheduled plantings
(see details in item 3 below)**
- \$1,000 for an engineer to work on the community information centers**
- Smoking butlers: trial order of \$2,500**
- Carry- over for next year: roughly \$10,000**

Priorities for FY 2006-07

- More trash receptacles: \$21,000 (or more)**

o The new proto-type is being designed and produced. It will be available at the next Operations Committee meeting. Priority: ensure that the product is of comparable quality and price with other options available.

o Suggestion: paint the interior can of the trash receptacle in front of 40 Fountain so that when Board members come on Thursday, they can see what it looks like.

• Trees to fill empty tree wells. City Forrester Doug Still is working on his inventory, so this will likely fall within the FY 2006-07 budget. \$150 per tree, estimating that 30 trees will need replacing, for a total cost of roughly \$4,500

• Community Information Centers

• Corrals for sidewalk newspaper dispensers

• More smoking butlers, if the trial ones are well-used

2. Recommendation for the DID to complete minor sidewalk repairs: discussion

Per the City Solicitor, the City does not own the sidewalks; therefore, the owners are responsible for maintenance and repairs. There is a question as to whether the DID assumes liability if we make repairs to sidewalks. General consensus is that it is probably no moreso than with graffiti removal, though this question needs to be looked into further. If the DID undertakes this project, it will need indemnification & liability insurance from the sub-contractor. It was agreed that hold harmless indemnification is an important issue to work out before committing to this. The committee also agreed on the importance of

implementing both prioritization schedules and criteria that are objective. This discussion will be taken up with the full Board to get their input.

Alternatives to DID doing the repairs

- contract it through the City
- reimbursing property owners to complete repairs themselves

3. Updates and discussion

Sidewalk repair committee

Engineers are working up the full plan for the 6 streets (Weybosset, Westminster, Dorrance, Washington, Eddy, Mathewson) where sidewalks will be completely re-paved, except for areas that are in good shape. Will Gates is representing the DID. The completed report is expected in the next 2 weeks. Once a walking survey is completed, the project will be put out to bid by RIDOT. The ambitious goal is to start work this summer and be done by the end of 2006.

Streetlight committee

Members include: City, National Grid, Johnson Controls, Ed Shore, resident and contractor, Frank LaTorre, Dan Baudouin. This group is working on a comprehensive plan to identify poorly lit areas and add proper lighting for public safety.

Flower planting

Groundwork Providence (GP) has developed a plan for planters, and GP Executive Director Thomas Brendlar will be at the next Operations

Committee meeting to discuss the plan further and to give an update on the fund-raising efforts. GP will purchase and plant the flowers for 3 plantings- spring, summer, and winter and do any weeding maintenance needed. The soil has been donated. The budget includes \$12,000 to fill the existing 40 planters + \$5,000 for former Adopt-a-spots +\$5,000 for new plantings in public areas= total \$22,000.

The DID has collected all of the planters and is repainting them and adding false bottoms to reduce the amount of soil necessary. The DID would be responsible for watering the plants.

Past experience has shown that the planters often become trash receptacles. A recommendation was made that we look into using hanging baskets instead.

**Ordinance enforcement in alleys: dumpsters & parking restrictions
Anthony Nunez working with a committee to strengthen ordinances to support rules and regulations for permits/business owners and to enforce the ordinances. They are addressing dumpster location and maintenance with the ultimate goal of replacing dumpsters with trash compactors. They are also focusing on enforcing parking restrictions in alleys.**

4. Other business

Richard Lappin suggested that there be a DID Ordinance Committee

and offered to co-chair it with Joe DiBattisita. Mr. Lappin believes that a comprehensive understanding of City ordinances is necessary to define our priorities for addressing quality of life issues and identifying what we can expect in terms of enforcement of ordinances.