

Downtown Providence District Management Authority

Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2006 2PM

Present: Robert Gagliardi, Michael Corso, Chris Placco, Richard Lappin, Joe DiBattista, John Macliver, Francisco Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Operations, City of Providence, Frank LaTorre, DID Director of Public Space, Dan Baudouin Executive Director of the Providence Foundation, Frank Zammarelli, DID Operations Manager, Thomas Brendler, Executive Director of Groundwork Providence

Report by Thomas Brendler, Groundwork Providence, on Spring 2006 plantings in the District

The Downtown Improvement District and Groundwork Providence are working together to have flowers planted, maintained and watered in the District this year. Mr. Brendlar spoke about the part Groundwork Providence is playing in the partnership and gave details about the overall strategic plan. The amount of plantings that can be done will depend on the money raised by Groundwork for the project. Cost estimates are as follows:

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	3 Adopt-a-Spots	5,000
	Hanging baskets	5,000
	Other planting areas	7,500
		\$ 30,000

Mr. Brendlar thanked the DID Board for allocating \$14,000 towards this project. Mr. Brendlar is working with businesses, property

owners and other possible benefactors to secure additional monies. The City of Providence is donating soil for the project. One group of property owners (around the Empire/Washington St. intersection) have approached Groundwork/DID to see if extra plantings could be done in their area if they are willing to pay for them. This type of area would become a showplace that could be replicated if other groups of property owners join forces in other parts of the District for supplemental planting. Groundwork Providence will be maintaining the flowers and the DID will do the watering. Mr. Brendlar plans on doing some planting of the wooden planters the DID restored around May 11.

Minor brickwork repair

It was agreed upon that the DID will offer its services to property owners in order to do minor brick repair of sidewalks. There will be an inventory taken of the areas most in need of minor repair, judged by what are the most glaring trip hazards. The property owners will be asked to sign an indemnification agreement that Frank LaTorre will write (and get legal approval). This agreement will also mention that they will be billed for the work. The payment will be voluntary but they will be strongly encouraged to pay to defray the cost for this important work.

Newsrack Orderliness

Frank LaTorre showed photographs of newsrack containers being used in other cities; to put all the paid and free distribution

newspapers now out on the sidewalks in modular units at key locations. This would alleviate the eyesore presently caused by the proliferations of various boxes scattershot throughout the District. Frank will research what local ordinances will have to be passed to allow this to happen as well as research various design and price options for the units.

The Marketing Committee will be meeting to further research the Community Information Kiosks

The idea was brought up by Mike Corso to look at the possibility of combining the above newsrack modular units with the information kiosks to make an even more appealing and functional street amenity for the citizens.