

Downtown Providence District Management Authority

Board of Directors meeting minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2009 8:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Director Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Directors present: Joseph DiBattista, Robert Gagliardi, Susan LaPidus, Richard Lappin and Christopher Placco

Ex-Officio Members present: Diana Burdett, John Nickelson and Alix Ogden

Others present: Dan Baudouin, Executive Director of the Providence Foundation; Joelle Kanter, Program Director for the Providence Foundation; Steve Gibson, President of Urban Place Consulting; Frank Zammarelli, Operations Manager for Block by Block; Frank LaTorre, DID Director of Public Space; Rosemarie Durette, DID Accounting Manager/Office Administrator

2. City of Providence Update

The Department of Public Works for the City of Providence has a commitment from the Mayor to spend \$10 million dollars for road repair. The State will distribute approximately \$12 million it receives from the federal government's Economic Stimulus Plan to the municipalities in Rhode Island. Providence will get approximately \$3

million from those funds. The City is proposing a bond issue for the balance to equal the \$10 million

A parking study is currently under way. The application process for a parking administrator has been extended.

A youth summer job program has received funding from the stimulus plan. This program is to help train low income and underprivileged youths for future employment. Any business that is interested can apply through the Providence/Cranston Job Corp.

The DID will look into possibly hiring four people through this program.

The Kennedy Plaza Working Group has met with RIPTA about the best use of funding that RIPTA has received to improve Kenney Plaza.

The City is updating the current permit process. The will be a concurrent review with the building inspector, the fire department and other departments need to obtain building and occupancy permits. The new review should make getting a permit faster and less confusing.

3. Approval on the minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting

Director DiBattista motioned to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2009 board meeting. Director Lappin seconded the

motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Director DiBattista yes.

Director Gagliardi yes

Director LaPidus yes

Director Lappin yes

Director Placco yes

Therefore the motion passed.

4. Financial Report

Monthly Financial Reports

Steve Gibson presented the financials for February 2009. The Statement of Financial Position shows the DID to be in a comfortable cash position with adequate funds to pay monthly expenses and maintain a reserve.

The Statement of Operations shows a solid revenue position. Over all expenditures are well below budget. The DID staff will be tracking the expenses to make sure they are within budget for the coming months. Director Placco motioned to accept the February 2009 financials as presented. Director DiBattista seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Director DiBattista yes

Director Gagliardi yes

Director LaPidus yes

Director Lappin yes

Director Placco yes

Therefore the motion passed.

5. Report from Urban Place Consulting & Director of Public Spaces

The staff will be starting to work on the DID's budget for the 2010 fiscal year. A preliminary budget will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

Frank LaTorre updated the Board on the projects that he has been working on:

Street names signs will be delivered by the end of the month. The signs will be installed in April and May. Project is expected to be finish by the end of May.

The RIDOT sidewalk project is on track. Phase I is going out to bid April 15, 2009. Planning has started for Phase two of the project, with projected bidding starting Spring 2010.

The hanging flower baskets have been planted by Jacavone Garden Center. If conditions are favorable, plan is out started hanging them May 19, 2009. Frank met with the City's landscape architect about plans for Burnside and Biltmore Parks. The plan will include adding flowering tree, bushed and some perennials to the parks. Once finalized, the plan will then be submitted to Bob McMahon, the Parks

Director, who will get the pricing and will review with Frank.

The HRP is sponsoring state legislation that would increase the penalties for clubs that are caught serving underage patrons and a pilot program regarding soft closings. The legislation has been filed with the State. Additional legislation has been filed with the City to require that all floor hosts be licensed. To get a license proof of training and a back ground check must be completed.

6. Discussion on Stimulus Funding Projects

As part of the federal stimulus package, Amtrak has been award funds for infrastructure repairs and upgrades. This will include the tracks as well as the station and surrounding park.

7. Update on Possible Expansion of District

No reply has been given by the Capital Center property owners after the meeting on February 17, 2009.

Representatives from Brown University and RISD are very interested in having the DID expand to South Main Street. Another meeting is planned for April 22, 2009. This meeting will include other property owners along South Main Street.

8. Update on Administration and Management Alternatives

Four members from the DID Board and four members from the Providence Foundation have joined to form the Downtown

Providence Leadership Council. The Council will meet to discuss joint issues.

Another meeting is schedule in April for further talks regarding the merger of offices.

9. Marketing Report

Joelle Kanter presented to the Board the marketing projects that she is working on.

The winter edition of the DID newsletter has been mailed.

Laura Mullen, our web designer, has made the changes to the downtown website. These changes include an updated map and a real estate database.

The Providence Business News March 9, 2009 paper included an article about the work of the DID. The article had quotes from both Frank and Joelle and a picture of the DID workers removing snow.

10. Report from Block by Block

Frank Zammarelli report that all the new hires are working out well. His crew is currently working on getting everything ready for spring and doing touch up work such as painting the trash receptacles. The new ATLV has arrived and will be out as soon as possible

11. Other Business

Director DiBattista met with Thom Dellar from the City's Planning Department regard the Downtown Circulator Project and the possibility of making the traffic around LaSalle Square two ways. Mr. DiBattista was told that the plans will be reevaluated as part of phase 1 of the project.

12. Adjournment

Director Gagliardi adjourned the meeting at 9:50a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Durette

Accounting Manager/Office Administrator