

# **APPROVED**

## **Downtown Providence District Management Authority**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**June 19, 2014**

#### **1. Roll Call**

**Chairman Richard Lappin called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.**

**Directors present: Bert Crenca, Joseph DiBattista, Bob Gagliardi, Susan LaPidus, Richard Lappin, and John Macliver.**

**Ex Officio Members present: Diana Burdett, Major Tom Verdi and Steve Durkee**

**Others present: Dan Baudouin, Executive Director of The Providence Foundation; Joelle Kanter, The Providence Foundation Program Manager; Frank LaTorre, Director of Public Space, Alison Izzi, DID Accounting Manager and Frank Zammarelli, Block by Block Operations Manager.**

#### **2. Approval of the minutes from the May 15, 2014 meeting**

**Director Joe DiBattista motioned to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2014 Board Meeting. Director Bob Gagliardi seconded the**

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

**Director Crenca**

**Director DiBattista Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Gagliardi**

**Director LaPidus Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Lappin Yes**

**Director Macliver Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

### **3. Financial Report**

**Alison Izzi presented the financial statements for May 2014. With one month remaining in fiscal year 2014 all expenses are at or below budget and the DID will finish the year in a positive position. Collection procedures are ongoing with 96% of tax assessments**

**collected cumulatively. The assessment bills for FY 2015 will go out the week of June 23rd.**

**Director Joe DiBattista motioned to accept the May 2014 financial statements, Director John Macliver seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director Crenca**

**Director DiBattista Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Gagliardi**

**Director LaPidus Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Lappin Yes**

**Director Macliver Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

#### **4. Approval and VOTE on Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**

**The fiscal year 2015 budget was reviewed and is included as an attachment along with the assessment rates. It was noted that assessment rates in each zone are the same as last year.**

**Director Bob Gagliardi motioned to approve the FY 2015 budget, Director John Macliver seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director Crenca**

**Director DiBattista Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Gagliardi**

**Director LaPidus Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Lappin Yes**

**Director Macliver Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

#### **5. Report from the Director of Public Space**

**Frank LaTorre reported that RIDOT has stated that the ADA sidewalk project is scheduled to go out to bid “when funds are released by Congress” by way of a transportation bill that needs to pass. RIDOT says design meetings will continue so that the project is ready to go out to bid. The City has agreed to spend the \$600,000 it has earmarked for the road and decorative lighting improvements. Frank reported on a June 12th meeting at the Board of Licenses regarding 3AM soft closings for nightclubs. Frank continues to work with the Downtown Security Network on a regular basis.**

#### **6. Marketing Report**

**Joelle Kanter reported on the office attraction campaign. The bringyourcompanytolife website was formally launched last month with a media campaign which included television and print media. The 2014 business directories will be finalized next month and will be printed before college students return in the fall. The new kiosk panel has been installed on a test basis. Once it is determined that the new laminated material works well, the other kiosk will be updated. The bidding package for the wayfinding signage project is being finalized.**

#### **7. Report from Block by Block**

**Frank Zammarelli reported that all the flowers are planted including hanging baskets, planters, ground gardens and the new gateway gardens. The hanging baskets are different from last year and include petunias rather than potato vines and they are doing well. The ambassadors are getting back to their normal watering and maintenance routine now that the planting is done. All graffiti jobs will be completed next week. The bike racks will be installed sometime in August. Two new ambassadors started this month.**

## **8. Economic Development**

**Dan Baudouin reported that the City of Providence has maintained the Commercial Tax rate for another year. He also reported that the recent budget passed by the General Assembly did not fund tax credits, which was disappointing. The budget did, however, support the South Street development and approve the state-wide \$35 million Bus Hub Bond Issue. Also, a tax stabilization agreement has been approved for the Kinsley Building.**

## **9. Other Business**

**Steve Gibson from Urban Place Consulting spoke about current organizational issues and the possible future vision for the DID, Providence Foundation and the DPPC. He discussed the possibility of**

**one organization that would include the maintenance of city parks. He presented possible funding options including initially “angel investors” which is a small number of private investors. He believes there is great opportunity for the DID for significant earned income, with contract work in the parks. There are many well documented studies that support the positive economic impact well-maintained parks have on property values.**

## **10. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Alison Izzi**

**Accounting Manager**

**Downtown Improvement District**