

# **APPROVED**

## **Downtown Providence District Management Authority Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 19, 2015**

### **1. Roll Call**

**Chairman Richard Lappin called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.**

**Directors present: Bert Crenca, Steve Durkee, Bob Gagliardi, Susan Lapidus, and Richard Lappin and Robert Taylor**

**Ex Officio Members present: Josh Heidenreich, Lisa Paratore, and Russ Ricci**

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

### **2. Approval of the minutes from the January 15, 2015**

**Director Bert Crenca motioned to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2015 board meeting. Director Robert Taylor seconded**

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

**Director Crenca Yes**

**Director Durkee**

**Director Gagliardi Yes**

**Yes**

**Director Lapidus**

**Director Lappin**

**Director Taylor Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

### **3. Financial Report**

**Alison Izzi reported that collections rates for the first 3 quarters of 2015 were 97%, 93%, and 75% and third quarter revenue posted on January 1st. Noteworthy expenditures for the month include \$13,000**

to LGC+D for audit services relating to FY 2014. \$54,000 to Jacavone Gardens for 2014 plant materials, of which \$45,000 relates to the regular planting program and \$9,000 relates to Phase I of the Gateways Program. \$1,700 was allocated to Greater Kennedy Plaza Support for ambassador overtime relating to the RIPTA bus relocation project and \$10,000 to The Providence Foundation for its semi-annual consulting fee and \$10,000 to the DPPC for general support. Alison also reported that a grant application was filed with Ocean State Charities in the amount of \$12,000 and an application was filed with Textron in the amount of \$20,000. Other applications being considered are to the June Rockwell Levy Trust and Champlin.

Director Bob Gagliardi motioned to accept the January financial statements, Director Susan Lapidus seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Director Crenca Yes

Director Durkee

Director Gagliardi Yes

Yes

Director Lapidus

**Director Lappin**

**Director Taylor Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

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

**Frank LaTorre continues to work on the ADA sidewalk project and with Nate Urso on street paving to make sure the work will be done in the spring of 2015 with additional streets under contract. The Downtown Security Network (DSN) continues to meet regularly as well as the Downtown Security Outreach Collaborative and the Greater Kennedy Plaza Security Committee.**

**Frank reported that Mayor Elorza and Bret Smiley are very much in support of the Hospitality Resource Partnership (HRP) and recognize the importance of the nighttime economy as an important economic**

**catalyst for the City. Frank also reported on the Vision Project which is focused on new ideas “Beyond Clean and Safe” Steve Durkee suggested an art district that it includes the entire district from PPAC to the Convention Center to Washington Street. Frank will be meeting next month with Bert Crenca and Yarrow Throne to discuss ideas for the project.**

**Frank reported that the Requests for Proposals for clean and safe services in the district will be mailed out on March 9th with a deadline to submit a bid of March 31st.**

## **6. Marketing Report**

**Joelle Kanter reported on the DID’s 10th anniversary celebration that is being held on March 3rd at the Providence Public Library at 9:30 am in the Barnard Room. It is a casual event with the Mayor and City Council President speaking and a cake cutting ceremony. Joelle reported that the bid package for the Wayfinding/signage project is going out next month. The Downtown Living tour is scheduled for September but no official date has been set.**

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

**Frank Zammarelli reported that snow removal has been the main focus during the month of February. It takes 3 days to clear the entire district of 12” of snow. H reported that the city plows are not doing a**

good job plowing this year. They do not plow close enough to the curb and also block the handicap ramps that have been cleared by the DID. There has been an overall improvement with property owners shoveling the sidewalks in front of their buildings. There is, however, an issue with owners of vacant buildings not shoveling their sidewalks. Incidents of panhandling are down as a result of the snow. There have been no ambassador injuries or incidents of worker's compensation claims so far this year.

## **8. Economic Development**

Dan Baudouin stated that the New Kennedy Plaza has been well received. The renovations are noticeable and the plaza is being well maintained by RIPTA's 5 man crew. Frank Zammarelli agreed that RIPTA is doing well cleaning and maintaining the plaza and it will continue to be monitored to ensure it is kept clean.

Dan Baudouin reported that this is the time of year the Commercial Tax Committee usually gets together. The commercial tax rate has been frozen for the past 3 years. The mayor has said that he is committed to this issue and it important that we push to keep the rates where they are. There are discussions underway between Mayor and the City council regarding tax stabilization policy. New legislation may be coming out which would include a multi- tiered process. New policies are needed on the issue of tax stabilization.

## **9. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Alison Izzi**

**Accounting Manager**

**Downtown Improvement District**