

Armory Arts District Study Group

7-14-10 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Morris Nathanson-Nathanson Design, Yvonne Seggerman-Executive Director of The Gamm and Armory Arts, Don Keel-Development Counsel, Leon Boghossian III-Gamm and Armory Arts board member, Michael Cassidy-Armory board member, Jennifer Kilsey-Pawtucket Planning & Redevelopment, Thomas Mann-Executive Director of Pawtucket Foundation, Edward Tetzner-City of Pawtucket, Government Affairs Aide, Rick Goldstein-City Clerk, Joseph Knight-Pawtucket School Committee and Derek Collamati-Armory Arts Development Director

I. Meeting Notes-

- 6-9-10 meeting notes were approved

II. Boundaries-Inventory of Space

- Jennifer presented a map of the Armory Arts District. Map being adjusted to include Blackstone Pawtucket LLC (Chance Kelly and Mark House) properties and include recommendations made by group members (including addresses and incorporating the property inventory into it).
- Question regarding the Rick Roth property. Is the property being sold/leased? Could this be additional space for a possible charter school (also using available Armory space)? Yvonne to contact Mr. Roth. Also, Morris tasked with looking into the possibility of a Silk Screen Vocational School (similar to the school in London).
- Fountain Street Discussion-There are currently talks about making it a one-way street heading north with angled parking on the side of the Armory (which will see a 40% increase in available parking or approximately 35-40 spots). Morris expressed that he (as well as everyone at the "Design Exchange") is completely against this idea. Morris emphasized that the City of Pawtucket is currently making every effort to get rid of the one way streets and this proposal is contrary to that aim. He also noted that the City's abundance of one way streets makes traveling in Pawtucket too confusing and leads to a disconnect with the downtown. Thomas has brought this concern to Mia Small, who is currently spearheading the city's trafficking initiative.
- Thomas proposed that the city needs to stop "making plans with parking at the front door." Keep the parking at the outskirts and have people move to the center of the city. Try to keep parking within 1/4 mile of destination.
- Joe Knight mentioned the possibility of available parking at Crowne Collision.
- Marketing the benefits of the arts district discussed, which included no sales tax for selling original one-of-a-kind art in the district (such as the Foundry Artists) and no income tax for artists residing and working in the district's live/work properties.

- Two new tenants in Armory space vacated by JMW Arts High School, including the Rhode Island Film Collaborative.
- Morris currently working on an outdoor cafe idea for outside of The Gamm.
- Chance Kelly's description of the Blackstone Pawtucket LLC properties within the district submitted to the group (it has since been revised and will be emailed to group members). These properties consist of two buildings on a lot of approximately two acres that are currently being developed.

III. Next Meeting/Action Items

- **Next meeting scheduled for August 11th at 1pm**
- Please give some thought to how we get neighbors/Armory Arts District residents involved in the group's work.
- Jennifer Kilsey modifying district map based on meeting suggestions
- Don & Derek looking into possible funding opportunities.
- Yvonne scheduling a meeting with Deborah Cylke
- Phyllis Nathanson preparing a one-page description of the "Design Exchange" in a perfect world
- Morris Nathanson working on vocational school concept
- Yvonne following-up with Rick Roth
- Need to clearly define the goal of the Armory Arts District Study Group (Mayor Doyle has not assigned a task). New signage, city incentives, etc.??
- Each group member asked to provide a letter of support for future funding requests. Derek to follow-up on.
- **It is imperative that the new superintendent, Deborah Cylke, be involved in the work of this group. Yvonne has been in touch with her and is scheduling a meeting-Gamm education director, Steve Kidd, will also be in attendance.**