



**Thayer Street District Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Our TSDMA Meeting was held via Zoom.us

<https://zoom.us/j/91666138532?pwd=THkwT2xMNmVyNXpoZkdKcmtQV056UT09>

MEETING MINUTES

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:03AM.

1. Zoom Meeting Protocol

Ms. Personeus reviewed Zoom meeting protocol for meeting attendees who had not used the service before.

2. Roll Call

Directors: Paul Greisinger, Chair; Joe Mardo; John Luipold; Albert Dahlberg; Lauren Berk; Jason Sweeney; Alexis Kievning; and Donna Personeus, Executive Director.

Absent: Richard Dulgarian

Guests: Megan Lewis, Brown University; Helen Anthony, Ward 2 Providence City Councilor

3. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from June 2, 2020

Minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, were approved after a motion by Mr. Greisinger, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous.

4. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Financial Reports as provided on July 7, 2020

Financial Reports were presented July 7, 2020 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Luipold, which was seconded by Mr. Mardo. The vote was unanimous.

5. Chairman Report

Mr. Griesinger spoke to the marketing goal of increasing exposure to Thayer Street to help drive traffic to the district for the merchants over the next year. After discussion, a TSDMA marketing meeting was scheduled for July 7, 2020.

6. Executive Director Report

Ms. Personeus emailed her Executive Director report on July 6, 2020 to each Board member.

7. Update on Status of Thayer Street Businesses during Coronavirus Crisis/Merchant Report

Ms. Personeus continued to provide emailed updates to TSDMA businesses, summaries of the Governor's press conferences, as well as additional COVID-19 related information. She is also updating the TSDMA website as TSDMA businesses statuses change. She reported most of the TSDMA businesses are now open in some manner;

only a few remain closed including the Avon Cinema, Rev Indoor Cycling, WOW Baraque, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, and the Brown Bookstore.

8. Discussion and vote on Reintroducing Thayer Street Summer Music Series

Ms. Personeus asked the Board to consider reintroducing a limited Summer Music Series with a few dates. The Board agreed. Ms. Personeus said she would reach out to the musicians that had approached her to try and confirm a few dates.

9. Discussion on which two Big Belly units to remove for 5-yr contract extension

Ms. Personeus presented data on Big Belly usage to the Board. She recommended the removal of the units located outside of Subway and Ceremony, based upon lower usage as compared to other locations. The Board agreed with her assessment. Ms. Personeus stated she would inform Mr. Koeck which two units to remove, so he can complete the agreement.

10. Discussion on City of Providence Trash Pick Up Services

Ms. Personeus explained that she was having continuing problems with the City of Providence not picking up the trash liners daily from the district. She stated that her communications to DPW go unanswered, and the problem since COVID furloughs has only gotten worse. She had begun outreach to Councilor Anthony asking for assistance. Councilor Anthony stated that she would reach out to Leo Perrotta, who is now head of DPW, and Jordan Day, Director of Operations. She explained that the department has had turnover, which mostly likely explains why the problem has not gotten better. Councilor Anthony stated that she would be in back in touch with Ms. Personeus.

11. Discussion on District Infrastructure

Mr. Griesinger, Mr. Mardo, and Mr. Dahlberg gave the Board including Providence Councilor Helen Anthony, an update on the current status of the infrastructure issues in the TSDMA. She also explained the need to define the scope to begin discussing funding options. Mr. Mardo and Mr. Dahlberg met with Bonnie Nickerson. The outcome of their meeting was that the TSDMA needs to put an infrastructure plan together in order to be included in the next City plan two to three years from now. Mr. Mardo stated he would check with Lou about the previous study. Board members stated the city would reap an economic pay-out from the infrastructure work with increased taxes. The Board was in agreement with the need to establish a process and a more aggressive timeline by the end of the year. A sense of urgency and a commitment from the city to move forward with regular meetings would help. Councilor Anthony said she would work on that from her end. The Board formed an Infrastructure Committee. Members include Mr. Greisinger, Mr. Dahlberg, Mr. Mardo, Mr. Luipold, Ms. Personeus and Councilor Anthony.

12. Other Business

Mr. Griesinger stated that Metro Mart will be expanding into the former Froyoworld space. They will be looking to provide locally produced items and fresh produce.

Mr. Luipold stated that Brown University would be announcing their plans for the Fall later in the day.

Mr. Luipold stated that we should consider possible new Board Member nominations to fill the open position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.