



Thayer Street District Management Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Our TSDMA Meeting was held via Zoom.us

<https://zoom.us/j/99073619710?pwd=OXpKdTF6bWdySThzVThBcWhHK1BCZz09>

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MEETING MINUTES

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:00AM.

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 Griesinger, Chair; John Luipold; Joe Mardo; Albert Dahlberg; Alexis Kieving; Jason Sweeney; Lauren Berk; and Donna Personeus, Executive Director

Absent: Richard Dulgarian

Ex officio members: Edward Bishop

Guests: Megan Lewis, Brown University; Genn Baskin, 190 Angell St property owner; Safiya Rajwani, President Brown Consulting Club; Kevin Kim, Projects Vice President Brown Consulting Club; Alexandra Leslie, WPRI

3. Discussion and Vote to Reinstate Mr. Jason Sweeney to the Board

After a brief discussion a motion to reinstate Mr. Sweeney to the Board was made by Mr. Mardo, which was seconded by Mr. Griesinger. The vote was unanimous.

4. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from April 7, 2020

Minutes from the April 7, 2020 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, were approved after a motion by Mr. Dahlberg, which was seconded by Mr. Sweeney. The vote was unanimous.

5. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Financial Reports as provided on May 5, 2020

Financial Reports were presented May 5, 2020 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Mardo, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous.

6. Chairman Report

Mr. Griesinger stated that there was no current update on the Big Belly negotiations status. Mr. Griesinger mentioned he had not been able to connect with Mr. Koech from Big Belly.

7. Executive Director Report

Ms. Personeus emailed her Executive Director report on May 4, 2020 to each Board member.

8. Discussion and Vote on Tree Well Mulch and Cobblestone Repair Estimate

After review of estimates from MNeves Inc. and Bel Terra Landscaping, Inc., presented by Ms. Personeus, the Board decided to move forward with Bel Terra Landscaping due to cost savings. A motion to accept the estimate from Bel Terra was made by Mr. Luipold, which was seconded by Mr. Griesinger. The vote was unanimous.

9. Review and Discussion of Preliminary FY 2021 TSDMA Budget

Ms. Personeus presented the revised FY 2021 TSDMA budget based upon recommendations from the last meeting.

There were no questions or suggestions at that time. Mr. Luipold asked that any questions after the meeting ends be addressed directly with Ms. Personeus.

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

Mr. Griesinger opened the discussion asking for suggestions on how the TSDMA could best support the Thayer District during the reopening phases. Mr. Luipold suggested developing a strategy timed with business openings and offered Brown's Lot #11 for parking as part of the mix. Mr. Sweeney stated that he had reached out to East Side Monthly. He thought a series of advertisements for the next few months would be a good idea. The publication is set to start republishing hard copies in June, printing 14,000 with the first reopening issue. Both Mr. Sweeney and Ms. Berk thought it best to target the neighborhood/community around Thayer Street with the return date for Brown University and RISD students undecided. The Board agreed to proceed with a campaign focused on the local community. Mr. Griesinger recommended creating a committee to work out the details. The committee was formed with Mr. Luipold, Ms. Berk, Mr. Sweeney, Ms. Personeus and Mr. Griesinger agreeing to participate. Other discussions involved options of street closures, partial closures and other options to provide enough space for both restaurants and retail shops to open under new restrictions. Ms. Personeus offered to organize a zoom meeting with Thayer businesses to listen to their needs and ideas on the subject to better understand how to proceed.

11. Discussion on Potential Thayer Street District Management Authority X BCC Partnership

Ms. Personeus introduced Safiya Rajwani, President and Kevin Kim, Projects Vice President, of the Brown Consulting Club. They presented their Real Life Consulting Project opportunity to the Board. Each semester they select four (4) projects from 300 applications. Their application process opens in May and closes in mid-June. If TSDMA were selected as one of their four (4) projects, the work plan would be developed with a 10 week time frame. The Board agreed the TSDMA should apply. Mr. Dahlberg agreed to work with Ms. Personeus on the application.

12. Other Business

No report at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.