



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

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM.

**1. Roll Call**

Directors: Paul Greisinger, Chair; Stephen Lewinstein; Albert Dahlberg; Richard Dulgarian; Joe Mardo; Jason Sweeney and Donna Personeus, Executive Director.

Ex officio members: Edward Bishop

Absent: David Everett; John Luipold, Lauren Berk

Guests: Lidia Pierce, Brown University; Steve Durkee, Owner Durk's BarBQ, Brown Officer Kelly Mitchell

**2. Presentation by Mr. Steve Durkee, owner Durk's BBQ regarding application for live music**

Mr. Steve Durkee gave a presentation to the TSDMA Board seeking TSDMA support for a special use permit for live entertainment at his restaurant, Durk's BarBQ. Mr Durkee explained he would like to have live music a few times per month, on a weekday night, to help increase business during the week. He stated they planned to have the band play until midnight. The restaurant plans on using their interior sound system. The band would play in the back of the restaurant in the bar location. The TSDMA Board asked Mr Durkee to submit his special use details in writing. The Board will discuss and vote on whether to support Mr. Durkee special use permit application after receiving his detailed document.

**3. Discussion with CVS representative on status of 291 Thayer mural (requested /tentative)**

A CVS representative was not available to attend. Refer to agenda item 9.

**4. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the July 2 meeting**

Minutes from the July 2, 2019 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, was approved after a motion by Mr. Sweeney, which was seconded by Mr. Mardo. The vote was unanimous by all attending Board members.

**5. Discussion and Vote to Approve Financial Reports as provided on August 13, 2019**

Financial Reports were presented August 13, 2019 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Lewinstein, which was seconded by Mr. Mardo. The vote was unanimous by all attending Board members. Mr. Greisinger has asked Ms. Personeus to prepare future financial reports with a firm end of month end date going forward for consistency. Ms. Personeus asked the Board to review the \$22,500 currently held in Allocated-Operating Reserve. Mr. Greisinger requested to hold this topic for Mr. Luipold to review and give his recommendations.

## **6. Chairman Report**

Mr. Greisinger stated his concerns regarding DOT's recent reporting of permanent closure of the Gano Street off ramp. He stated DOT had promised the Gano Street off ramp would reopen in the fall of 2019. He opened discussion to Board members. Members were concerned with the lack of public meetings discussing this matter, stating it should be a public process. Members agreed to send a letter to Mr. Peter Alviti, Jr.

Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation; Governor Gina Raimondo; Mayor Jorge Elorza; City Council President Sabina Matos; Councilman Seth Yurdin; Councilwoman Helen Anthony; Senator Gayle Goldin; Representative Chris Blazewski; David Walsh, RI DOT; and Bonnie Nickerson, Director of Planning City of Providence. Ms. Personeus was asked to distribute the letter once approved by Chairman Griesinger.

## **7. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Personeus reported that she emailed her Executive Director report on August 12, 2019 to each Board member. There was not a request to add any items for further discussion to the agenda for today's meeting.

Ms. Personeus presented a first draft of dates for 2020 TSDMA Board meetings for Board members to review and vote on at a later date. Mr. Mardo mentioned he was reaching out to Flatbread Co. to see if they would be willing to host TSDMA Board meetings in 2020. He stated the major reason for securing the new location was a lack of parking at the current location. He stated he would report back at the next Board meeting.

## **8. Discussion and Vote to Reinstate Mr. Lewinstein to the TSDMA Board**

A motion to reinstate Mr. Lewinstein to the TSDMA Board of Directors was made by Mr. Dahlberg, which was seconded by Mr. Sweeney. The vote was unanimous by all attending Board members.

## **9. Discussion and Vote on Letter to owners of 291 Thayer regarding condition of mural**

Ms. Personeus notified the Board that she had attempted to reach the appropriate person at CVS to discuss the current condition of the graffiti covered mural on CVS's north facing Cushing St wall.. She explained she had received notification that the person who had been working on correcting the wall's condition was no longer employed by CVS. Ms. Personeus also mentioned that CVS would not allow the TSDMA to touch the mural due to insurance issues. After a short discussion, Mr. Lewinstein said he would reach out to the owners and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

## **10. Marketing Committee Update**

*Thayer Street Summer Music Series, Farmer's Market, Touch a Truck Event, Thayer Holiday Season*

Ms. Personeus updated the Board on the Music Series successfully continuing, to end on Labor Day. She presented samples of the event rack card listing all the dates and locations that had been distributed to Thayer Street businesses for them to give to their customers. Mr. Lewinstein stated he would like to see a full color rack card and a larger selection of musicians in following years.

Mr. Gresinger stated he and Ms. Personeus would be meeting with Farm Fresh regarding securing Thayer Street as a location for Farmers Markets in the future.

Ms. Personeus updated the Board on the selected date of Sunday, October 27 9-11AM for the Thayer Halloween Touch a Truck event. She stated the next step would be securing trucks for the event.

Ms. Personeus presented streetscape holiday light banners for Board members to review via email. She stated that the dates had been selected: Friday, November 29 (time to be determined), and Saturdays 12-2P: November 30,

December 7, December 14, December 21. Ms. Personeus said she would begin to contact and secure vendors for the Holiday Season as well as begin a working budget for the event series.

#### **11. Thayer Street Planning Study Committee Update**

Mr. Dahlberg stated he would be speaking with Mr. Everett on an update to the Thayer Street Planning Study Report.

#### **12. Merchants Report**

There was no update from the merchants at this time.

#### **13. Other Business**

Mr. Bishop reported that he had signed a deal for a small hotel (125 units on 3 acres) in the College Hill area. Mr. Greisinger reported he had a letter of intent for 288 Thayer Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.