



**Thayer Street District Management Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 1, 2020

**Our TSDMA Meeting was held via Zoom.us**

<https://zoom.us/j/95093508309?pwd=cm5FdWJVZTNtWnkwb0ZJaElkd1dCUT09>

## MEETING MINUTES

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:02AM.

### **1. Roll Call**

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

Absent: Richard Dulgarian

Guests: Audrey McClelland; Joe Thibodeau; Megan Lewis, Brown University

### **2. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from August 4, 2020**

Minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, were approved after a motion by Mr. Mardo, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous.

### **3. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Financial Reports as provided on September 1, 2020**

Financial Reports were presented September 1, 2020 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Luipold, which was seconded by Ms. Berk. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Personeus has been asked to make finishing the current audit a priority.

### **4. Chairman Report**

Mr. Griesinger mentioned he continues to be concerned regarding an increase in customers coming to Thayer Street after midnight and the impact that could have.

### **5. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Personeus emailed her Executive Director report on August 31, 2020 to each Board member.

### **6. Nomination and Interview with Joe Thibodeau for Open TSDMA Board Position**

Mr. Griesinger nominated Mr. Thibodeau, co-owner of Ritual Sweat Society, for consideration to fill the open TSDMA Board seat. Mr. Thibodeau was introduced and then proceeded to present his background, followed by answering questions asked by members.

### **7. Discussion and Vote on Joe Thibodeau for Open TSDMA Board Position**

After discussion, Mr. Mardo made a motion to vote Mr. Thibodeau onto the Board, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Personeus was asked to reach out to Mr. Thibodeau after the meeting to welcome him.

### **8. Update on Status of Thayer Street Businesses during Coronavirus Crisis/Merchant Report**

Mr. Luipold and Mr. Dahlberg updated the Board on the Brown University student status. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors are on campus now, with Freshman returning in January 2021. Students will start classes online, and move to in-class where possible. Students will be tested twice weekly.

### **9. Update on Thayer Marketing Program**

Ms. Audrey McClelland gave a presentation on providing social media services to TSDMA, and then exited the meeting. After a discussion, the TSDMA Board agreed unanimously to hire Ms. McClelland to develop and execute a social media plan, with events, for six months starting in early September. Her budget is set at \$3,000 per month. Ms. Personeus was asked to schedule a Zoom meeting with members and Ms. McClelland to secure final details of the agreement.

Stephanie Fortunato, City of Providence Arts and Tourism, was unable to attend. Ms. Kievning provided an update on holiday lighting support from the City of Providence from Ms. Fortunato. It was decided a follow-up meeting with Ms. Fortunato would be necessary. Ms. Personeus was asked to schedule a Zoom meeting.

### **10. Review, Discussion, and Vote on adding Unit Foot Pedals to Big Belly Extension Contract**

Ms. Personeus presented the estimated cost to retro-fit 18 Big Belly units with foot pedals. The Board agreed not to move forward based upon cost.

### **11. Update Discussion on District Infrastructure Committee**

Mr. Dahlberg reported that during his meeting with Bonnie Nickerson, she had recommended that the TSDMA write up a narrative that explains what the Thayer District's needs for infrastructure. Mr. Dahlberg stated he would write a cover letter and narrative that could be discussed and approved at the next Board meeting.

### **12. Other Business**

Ms. Personeus reported to the Board that a representative from the Wheeler School had asked for a letter of support for a temporary partial closure of Meeting Street for additional COVID distancing outdoor areas from the TSDMA. After discussion, Ms. Personeus was asked to get additional information from Wheeler on the date range and time of day for the closure. It was decided that a vote to support would be taken online once the additional information had been provided.

Mr. Luipold informed the Board that Rev'd Indoor Cycle had developed a new business model during COVID, renting their bikes and holding virtual classes, Soban was renovating their kitchen and Warby Parker would be open before the end of the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.