



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

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Our TSDMA Meeting was held via Zoom.us

<https://zoom.us/j/99895889756?pwd=dTh0SFZNaDlybEdPbzNvY1RRR3c3UT09>

MEETING MINUTES

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:05AM.

1. Roll Call

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

Guests: Audrey McClelland; Megan Lewis, Brown University; Stephanie Fortunato, Director City of Providence Art, Culture and Tourism; Chris Marsella, Marsella Properties

2. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from September 1, 2020

Minutes from the September 1, 2020 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, were approved after a motion by Ms. Berk, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous.

3. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Financial Reports as provided on October 6, 2020

Financial Reports were not presented October 6, 2020 by Ms. Personeus, due to the passing of our bookkeeper's mother. Reports will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

4. Chairman Report

Mr. Griesinger mentioned he continues to be concerned regarding an increase in customers coming to Thayer Street after 11 p.m. and the impact that could have. Ms. Personeus was asked to stay in touch with the Police Department to express the Board's level of concern. Mr. Griesinger would like a task force to be set up to monitor the situation going forward. Ms. Kievning mentioned hearing of a City of Providence Nuisance Committee. She stated she would research and forward contacts to Ms. Personeus.

5. Executive Director Report

Ms. Personeus emailed her Executive Director report on October 5, 2020 to each Board member.

6. Update and Discussion on Holiday Lighting

Ms. Fortunato provided an update from the City of Providence on getting power to the holiday lights. She mentioned the city only owned the pole on one side of the street, where the power taps would need to be placed. She was still checking if power could be tapped from the street light at the corner of Waterman and Thayer and will get back to Ms. Personeus. She was still checking to see if using solar power would be an option. Ms.

Fortunato stated that her City contact for these issues, Al Boco, had retired and the City also had a new lighting vendor. She has been trying to connect with both of the new contacts. She stated that the power taps had been ordered and would be installed by October 31. She asked for clarification if the lights required a power source on two sides or just one. Ms. Personeus said she would have our vendor check and get back to her. Ms. Fortunato also mentioned the “Take it Outside” lending library kits of items (outside heaters, tables, chairs, tents) available for events at no charge from the City.

7. Review, Discussion and Vote on District Infrastructure Cover Letter and Narrative

Mr. Dahlberg will finish the letter and narrative, then share with Ms. Personeus to forward to the Board via email for review and feedback.

8. Social Media Report from Audrey McClelland

Ms. McClelland presented her social media report to the Board. She stated she was more interested in the quality of the followers, not the quantity. She was also working on retraining the audience to interact. Ms. McClelland reported she was reaching out to influencers to work on “Date Night” posts/stories. She is going to start a “Where are we on Wednesday?” weekly giveaway. Ms. Personeus asked her to provide the giveaway text for legal counsel to review before starting the series.

9. Trash Issue with Antonio’s Pizza

Ms. Personeus reported an on-going problem with trash outside Antonio’s Pizza. She mentioned she had reached out to the restaurant owner with no reply. Mr. Luipold suggested a Brown student run group could reach out to the business and suggest solutions.

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

Mr. Luipold updated the Board on the Brown University student status ending October 5 quarantine phase. Visitors are not allowed on campus, and there are no events in order to reduce activity. Two thousand (2,000) students are off-campus, with twelve hundred (1,200) on campus, as well as graduate and medical students who are off-campus. In-person classes will end before Thanksgiving. He stated the University hopes to have all students back on campus January with freshman January through July.

11. Other Business

No additional business to report

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.