



Thayer Street District Management Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Roll Call

Directors: Paul Greisinger, Chair; John Luipold; Albert Dahlberg; Richard Dulgarian; David Everett; Joe Mardo; Jason Sweeney and Donna Personeus, Executive Director

Ex officio member(s): Edward Bishop

Absent: Lauren Berk; Stephen Lewinstein, David Shwaery

Guests: Michael McKenna, Deputy Superintendent, Highway Department of Public Works, City of Providence; Lidia Pierce, Property Management, Brown University Real Estate Office

2. Discussion and Vote to Approve Minutes from November 13, 2018

Minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting, presented by Ms. Personeus, were approved after a motion by Mr. Dahlberg, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous by all attending Board members.

3. Discussion and Vote to Approve Financial Reports as provided on December 11, 2018.

Financial Reports were presented December 11, 2018 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Dahlberg, which was seconded by Mr. Sweeney. The vote was unanimous by all attending Board members.

4. Chairman Report

Mr. Greisinger stated he would like to see the TSDMA begin a new cycle of long-term planning and project development for the district. The Board began a discussion on how to proceed with that process.

5. Executive Director Report

Ms. Personeus reported that she emailed her Executive Director report on December 10, 2018 to each Board member. There was not a request to add any items for further discussion to the agenda for today's meeting.

6. DPW Snow Removal Review

Ms. Personeus introduced to the Board, Mr. Michael McKenna, Deputy Superintendent, Highway Department of Public Works for the City of Providence. Mr. McKenna gave the Board an overview of the City of Providence's 2018-2019 snow removal plan. He stated the goal was to have two snow plow trucks per ward under normal conditions, and a third truck per ward available on call. He mentioned the snow plows were about to begin their pre-ride training. Ms. Personeus suggested an improvement of communication regarding street closures and re-opening times. She noted the problems Thayer businesses have with staffing/employees and street parking when communication from the City is poor, which results in lost revenues. Mr. McKenna asked Ms. Personeus to

send him a list of key snow removal areas in the TSDMA so he can make sure they are addressed. Members of the Board also addressed their concerns over the condition that National Grid is leaving the pavement after they open up the roads. Ms. Personeus mentioned several locations on Thayer Street that were left in a dangerous and unacceptable condition. Mr. McKenna responded that he is aware of the issue, acknowledging that is a City-wide issue, and that the City of Providence is currently addressing the issue with National Grid.

7. Thayer Street Planning Study Committee Update

Mr. Everett and Mr. Dahlberg updated the Board that they were working on securing a meeting with Mr. Azar, Deputy Director of City of Providence Planning, to discuss development of future long-term projects for Thayer Street. Issues to be addressed include ownership and maintenance of RIPTA tunnel lights at the top of the tunnel, shared funding options for larger projects, better coordination with National Grid, and addressing utility infrastructure upgrades for the aging underground system. The following actions items were agreed upon: 1) Mr. Everett would secure a meeting with Bonnie Nickerson, Director of City of Providence Planning to give her an overview and speak to policy; 2), Mr. Dahlberg will speak with Mr. McKenna at DPW to exhaust all options in regards to ownership of the RIPTA tunnel lights, ultimately having the City of Providence acknowledge ownership; and 3) Mr. Greisinger will email Mr. Everett with Ms. Nickerson and Mr. Azar to address the TSDMA concerns on utility infrastructure capacity.

8. Thayer Street Public Art Committee Update

Ms. Personeus reported that due to illness, the RISD program community manager artist would not be able to work on our TSDMA mural pilot program. Ms. Personeus stated that she had reached out to Laurie Flynn at the Wheeler School and they had shown interest in working with us on the pilot. Ms. Personeus will be meeting with Wheeler representatives in the beginning of 2019.

9. Merchants Report

Ms. Personeus reported to the Board that she had been able to secure Santa and live music for the evening of Friday, December 23, and each of the Saturday's from November 24 through December 22, along with wreaths, an ice sculpture, and strings of lights across Thayer Street (271 Thayer to 272 Thayer). Ms. Personeus asked if the Board would prefer she returned the unused lights and wreaths or hold onto them for next year. The Board asked her to return the unused merchandise.

Ms. Personeus suggested the TSDMA work with the City and our Ward representation to expand the Holiday 2-hour free street parking beyond just Thayer Street from Bowen to Waterman, recommending the full District footprint instead to be fair to the district and the limited resources of street parking spots.

14. Other Business

Construction & New Tenant Updates

Ms. Personeus reported that Shaking Crab had opened with a soft opening and that they had not responded to her invitation for a TSDMA sponsored ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mr. Dahlberg informed the Board that he would be out of town on University business for the January and February TSDMA Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.