



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

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

### **MEETING MINUTES**

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) board meeting was called to order at 9:10AM.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Directors: Paul Griesinger, Chair; John Luipold; Joe Mardo; Alexis Kieving; Richard Dulgarian and Donna Personeus, Executive Director

Absent: Albert Dahlberg; Lauren Berk; Jason Sweeney

Ex officio members: Edward Bishop; Stephen Lewinstein

Guests: Katie Silberman, Director of Community Relations Brown University Office of Government & Community Relations; Lt. DuFault; LaJuan Allen, City of Providence; Angel Subervi, City of Providence; Corey Thibodeau, Ritual Sweat Society; Ken Martin, Brown Bookstore; Representative from Spectrum-India; Angie Riccio, by Chloe; Robert Smith, CBD American Shaman

#### **2. Discussion on Recent Crime and Panhandling with Guest Lt. Joseph Dufault, City of Providence**

Ms. Personeus introduced Lt. Dufault, the PVD Police Department Commanding Office for police districts 8 and 9 (which Thayer St is a part of). Ms. Personeus read an email she had received from the owner of Pie in the Sky, regarding recent issues she had with disruptive Hope High School students during release hours in her shop. Other business owners spoke to recent issues of aggressive panhandlers and high school students. Lt. Dufault stated he has a good relationship with the Hope High Resource Department. He would reach out to them. He also said he would try and have more patrols on Thayer during the High School release hours. He said he would have the 9a-2p post officer go into each business and introduce himself. He also discussed best ways to deal with the more aggressive panhandlers. He urged businesses to call immediately, either “911” or the dispatcher at 401.272.3121, when an issue arises. He also provided his phone number: 401.999.8678

#### **3. Presentation by Angel Subervi, Small Business Development Director and LaJuan Allen, Community Relations Coordinator for Mayor Elorza and the City of Providence on City’s IDPVD program**

Mr. Subervi explained that his department wishes to serve as a connector with information and support for the business community. He stated that many business owners don’t understand the processes. Their role is to break down barriers and support entrepreneurs. They provide a three week business planning course at no cost to Providence residents that includes mentorships and business plan writing support. The department is also working on remodifying loan programs for startups. They hold PVD Open House networking events where all departments have tables, in an environment that is inviting and informal. Mr. LaJuan presented the ID PVD program to the Board. He explained that the holders of the City Card receive special benefits and discounts with business partners

that participate. There are currently approximately 1,200 ID PVD in circulation. The card program is 100% opt-in for both the card holder and the businesses participating. Businesses that participate have their information listed on promotional materials, website program page, and on social media. He invited Thayer Street businesses to participate. Ms. Personeus asked him to send her the program information in a digital format so that she could email the information to the TSDMA Businesses.

#### **4. Presentation by Corey Thibodeau, new owner of the Ritual Sweat Society Providence**

Mr. Griesinger introduced Corey Thibodeau, new co-owner of the Ritual Sweat Society, along with her husband. Ms. Thibodeau stated to the Board that she is a Moses Brown alumni, as well as a URI alumni having majored in Business/Marketing. She is a certified Yoga instructor and has been teaching a weekly spin class in Providence for the past five years. She stated that they have made upgrades to the business since their purchase including new merchandise, more plants, and removing the mats exposing the beautiful hardwood floors. Their business philosophy is Sweat (right mix of classes for all people), Recovery (all levels) and Contribute (contribute back to the community). They have also changed the pricing structure for members and doubled the income in the past month. Their percentage of student members is 30-40%. They are committed to their student tier pricing. They also offer the first class for free.

#### **5. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Minutes from January 7, 2020**

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

#### **6. Discussion and Vote to Approve the Financial Reports as provided on February 4, 2020**

Financial Reports were presented February 4, 2020 by Ms. Personeus, and were approved after a motion by Mr. Mardo, which was seconded by Mr. Luipold. The vote was unanimous.

#### **7. Chairman Report**

Mr. Griesinger stated that he had scheduled a meeting with Bonnie Nickerson, Planning Department, City of Providence, to discuss long-term infrastructure (power, water, etc) needs/issues within the district. He also stated that he had scheduled a meeting with key property owners and Geisser Engineering to discuss Thayer Holiday Lights engineering requirements for installation. He promised to update the members at the next meeting.

#### **8. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Personeus emailed her Executive Director report on February 3, 2020 to each Board member.

Ms. Personeus notified the Board that she would be meeting with Stephanie Fortunato and Alexis Kievning to discuss lighting of the four snowflakes, permissions required, and funding opportunities for future art related events and public art project.

#### **9. Update on Speed Bumps on Fones Alley**

Ms. Personeus informed the Board that she had been able to place Fones Alley on the project list for speed bump consideration. She had been told research and consideration would mostly happen in the Fall of 2020.

#### **10. Discussion and Vote on Solar Compactor Contract, eCubed vs. Big Belly**

After discussion, it was decided not to pursue eCubed due to the estimates provided and the Board would move forward completing the extension agreement with Big Belly. There was agreement on looking at leasing 18 units instead of the current 20 units. Ms. Personeus stated she would be meeting with a representative of Big Belly to assess the current condition of each Big Belly.

### **11. Continued Discussion on Procurement Protocol and Vote**

Mr. Griesinger asked the item continue to be on hold until he and Mr. Dahlberg had an opportunity to discuss further.

### **12. Discussed on Geisser Engineering Report for the Holiday Skyline Lighting for 2020**

Refer to Mr. Griesinger's Chairman report

### **13. Continued Discussion Suggested 2020 Thayer Street Calendar of Events**

Held for next meeting

### **14. Update on City of Providence Grant Application for Thayer Street Planning/Infrastructure**

Refer to Mr. Griesinger's Chairman report

### **15. Merchant Report**

Mr. Luipold stated that Brown University would be making their Lot #11 (located between/behind 307 Thayer Street and 297 Thayer Street) available for paid public parking Tuesday-Fridays 5P-9P and Saturday 5P-11P. He said the lot would become available at some point in late February 2020 and early March 2020. When asked if the parking lot would also be available on Saturdays and Sundays during the day, and Sunday night, Mr. Luipold said it was being considered, but that a decision had not yet been made.

### **16. Other Business**

Ms. Kievning recommended to the Board that Lou Perrotta, Parking Administrator, City of Providence, attend the March 2020 meeting to present the information regarding income generated by Thayer Street meters, as well as answer the other questions the Board had. Ms. Personeus stated she would extend an invitation to him to attend the March 2020 meeting.

Mr. Mardo asked Ms. Personeus to also invite the new City of Providence Acting Building Inspector, Joe Atchue, to attend the March 2020 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.