



MBA Board Meeting Minutes, March 22, 2022

Board Chair Heather Arata called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. (In person, in second floor conference room in Media Borough Hall)

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Sandra Baggot, Ed Blanchard, Ally Britton, Don Connolly, Tim D'Ignazio, Dave Fairman, Elizabeth Romaine, Brittany Scharr, David Sibley.

Absent: Laura Graham, Michael Straw

Consent Agreement: E. Blanchard motion to approve February Minutes and Financial Report. Unanimous approval.

Comments from the Chair/Retail Update – Borough Council approved S. Baggot for the MBA Board through 12/31/24. Congratulations and welcome.

Vanity (7 E. State) closed. Agreement with Three Potato Four for the space – retro decorative items.

Media Nail (303 W. State) closed.

Poke Ono (poke bowls) opening (300 W. State) next to Painting with a Twist.

Owner of La Na Thai plans to open MIYAKE Sushi & Poke shop (19 S. Olive) in the next week.

TSAō-CAA (pronounced Sao-Cha) opened this past weekend (14 W. State) – former SZNL location.

On A Roll has extended Friday & Saturday hours: 11a-8pm.

Teriyaki Fresh opened at 5-Points.

Ocean City Coffee celebrated 3-years in Media.

Brick & Brew in the midst of a remodel.

PNC building will reopen as Prine restaurant in Spring 2023.

March Philadelphia Magazine included Media as one of the most walkable towns. Photo of State Street prominent on the first page of the magazine article and the featured photo of the online article.

Greg Quintiliano (Dos Gringos) has withdrawn his consideration for a Board Seat due to a very busy schedule. MBA still seeks restaurant representation on the Board.

Proposal from Results Repeat for a website 'refresh' and combine MBA site with Visit Media site – proposal under budget. Review of proposal followed. Includes training us to do updates, improve mobile compatibility, transfer the hosting for more robust backup and recovery options. D. Sibley motion to proceed with securing Results Repeat services – unanimous approval.

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Exec Committee toured a property in State Street District as possible new location for MBA office. 2015 Strategic Plan called for an 'Info Center' in Media. 2017 Plan recommended a 'downtown' location for MBA office. This move would increase visibility and accessibility for businesses and for the public. The location has 600 SF and a great location – would require some interior renovation to fit MBA's needs. Discussion followed regarding costs/lease terms and other details. T. D'Ignazio motion to pursue securing this location and follow up at April meeting. Unanimous approval.

Excessive trash recently in Plum Street Mall. D. Fairman contacted Public Works and Mike Green indicated they will add extra trash receptacles in the area.

Treasurer's Report – Written reports distributed. E. Blanchard conveyed that all outstanding invoices have been paid. The report does not reflect current month payment from the Borough as that routinely arrives after the MBA monthly meeting.

Secretary's Comments – D. Sibley reported Spring Restaurant Week will be April 3-9. So far 9 participants. Banners are going up, also window signs to be distributed to all businesses (not just restaurants). MediaRestuarantWeek.com website is updated as information comes in.

Ukrainian flags were added to State Street; L. Romaine was asked to convey thanks to Council from MBA on behalf of businesses.

Towne House has indicated they will participate in Dining Under the Stars and occupy space in front of future Prine location. They will also open the doors so visitors can see the current space and renderings of future plans. Will work in advance with Rye and Fellini's to be sure setup runs smoothly with this new arrangement.

Quotations plans to re-brand. Their announcement will be made in time for Dining Under the Stars.

Executive Director Report – Written report distributed. D. Fairman conveyed that info for DUTS will go out next week. LCB requirements for 'extension of premises' are more strict compared to previous two years – and now demand is higher in all areas. This makes it important for a coordinated effort among all Media restaurants to apply together. Received LCB placards and working with zoning and the Borough for the necessary steps. Mass Gathering permit for DUTS was approved by Council for 22 Wednesdays, plus 6 additional contingency dates that will not be publicized. Efforts continue to secure a presenting sponsor if possible. Rafferty Subaru will sponsor the performance space each week – on State near Jackson. Good response from high school music groups to participate. Space will be available in Plum Street Mall for non-profit displays.

General events – Public is looking to MBA to recreate events that were historically put on by outside producers who are no longer available. MBA is focusing on two events featuring some combination of Food, Music and Art. Media Arts Council is already planning some similar events but mainly on a smaller scale. Met with two professional production companies but so far have not received follow-up. In June considering 6/12 with 6/26 as rain date. And in October 10/2 (10/9 rain). D. Fairman will submit MGP.

Borough Liaison – E. Romaine reported working with EAC on plastic bag discussions – April, 2023 is likely the earliest anything would be implemented.

Inquired if there is something MBA can do at DUTS regarding Ukraine? Donations, etc. To be considered.

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Council inquiry about temporary structures/extra outdoor seating at restaurants – how does this compare to pre-pandemic. Almost everything seems to be back to how it always was. Also, not really something MBA can control if not.

Additional discussion that business district parking has increasingly overflowed into residential neighborhoods. This will become more of an issue going forward. How can MBA help? Potential surface lot being planned at County Courthouse.

New Business –

T. D'Ignazio motion to adjourn; unanimous approval at 7:52 PM.

Next meeting April 26, 6:30 PM

Prepared by David Sibley, Secretary. 3/24/2022