



MBA Board Meeting Minutes, August 24, 2021

Frank Daly called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:31 pm .

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Ed Blanchard, Ally Britton, Don Connolly, Frank Daly, Tim D'Ignazio, Dave Fairman, Laura Graham, Lisa Johnson, Dave Krull, David Sibley.

Absent: Paul Maranka, Brittany Scharr, Michael Straw

Consent Agreement: T. D'Ignazio motion to approve July Minutes and Financial Report. Unanimous approval.

Comments from the Chair – F. Daly reported the Media 5-mile race will be 'virtual' on 9/12/21, after much discussion among the organizers. 900 registrants signed up (normally 1800). MBA will promote the virtual event and Media5MileRace.com.

Comments from Vice Chair – H. Arata commended Bittersweet Kitchen being named to the top ten brunch-worthy spots by Main Line Today. Inquiries have come in about Super Sunday and being an exhibitor – L. Johnson suggested referring questions to the Borough and B. Forman. There has been no discussion of the Borough cancelling or revoking Mass Gathering Permits, but D. Fairman should communicate with businesses about events and cancellations.

Treasurer's Report –T. D'Ignazio indicated cash on hand looks ok, expenses are low other than DUTS and normal monthly expenses. D. Fairman explained that some DUTS deposits will carry over to next year. Some 2020 Food Fest refunds have been requested and will be refunded on a case-by-case basis. T. D'Ignazio reported that auditors are still working, trying to resolve a few remaining items. Review of bills to be paid.

Secretary's Report – D. Sibley reported two tows were needed in the prior month. Discussion followed about continuing Dining in October. Staffing shortages are still a concern and there has been mixed opinions about continuing past September. Suggestion to 'play it by ear' depending on weather and safety conditions, but police dislike a last-minute decision, SEPTA and restaurants need to be able to plan in advance. Since outdoor dining is safer than indoor, shouldn't we help provide as many options as possible. Decision to survey all restaurants so we have solid input – D. Fairman will work on this and make a decision before the September Board meeting, also considering Covid guidelines.

Sept 1 there will be an event on Front Street including a street closure. D. Fairman is working with Public Works to assure enough barricades in the proper locations.

Discussion of Saturday 9/11 – 20th anniversary, should we have concerns? There is a concert at Glen Providence Park that day, September temperatures and vacations being over may make for larger than normal crowd. MBA will allow the Police to determine if extra measures are needed if any.

August 24, 2021 Minutes – Page 2

Restaurant Perspective – P. Maranka expressed interest to D. Fairman for a Fall Restaurant Week – limited to one week (Sunday to Saturday). We can begin to promote now. A fee will be charged for participation. Agreement that Restaurant Week will be November 7 – 13, 2021.

Music Festivals – F. Daly commented about a tribute for Paul Patchel at Community Arts Center. E. Blanchard presented his written report from July outlining his concept for a modified Music Festival event. There will not be an event in 2021, but the ideas are useful for future events, including ways to save expenses and time. In recent years the three music fests have not lived up to the goals of these events.

Holiday Decorating – H. Arata reported a committee is discussing goals and assignments for decorating, including sponsorships. Participants include Joyce from Kenny's Flowers, Public Works, and a few banks.

Santa Parade – D. Sibley explained that the parade committee has met four times already and plans are underway. A four-mile traveling route is being considered for safety reasons. Budget planning is difficult until we determine what form the event will be in – will be a final decision before September Board meeting.

New Year Ball Drop – D. Fairman expressed the same safety concerns about a New Year event, making plans then cancelling at the last minute. Sponsors may want refunds if the event is cancelled. D. Krull suggested submitting the MGP so we have the option if we decide to proceed. Discussion of relocating the setup, and also possibly an outside firm to run the event.

Executive Director Report – D. Krull inquired about the website 'refresh' – suggested MBA make an assessment prior to beginning with a paid service. D. Fairman and D. Krull will meet to discuss objectives.

D. Fairman requested volunteers for Wednesday night setups.

D. Krull asked if MBA can help with labor shortages somehow. Discussion of Chamber of Commerce letter to PA legislators, F. Daly indicated MBA should review before 'signing on'

Question about 'Hybrid Form Based Code' – D. Fairman indicated he was pleased to be included, along with H. Arata and Anthony Bellapigna. Gave input to the consultant, more detail will be shared at a September meeting.

Open Discussion – T. D'Ignazio suggested considering multiple ball drops – earlier for families and at midnight for adults.

D. Sibley recommended consideration of a part-time administrative aid to free up the Executive Director's time from routine office tasks. The cost for this would need to be put into the 2022 budget.

D. Krull motion to adjourn; unanimous approval at 7:45PM.

Next meeting September 28, 6:30 PM

Prepared by David Sibley, Secretary. 8/26/2021