



MBA Board Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2022

Heather Arata called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:31 pm.

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

Guest: Sandra Baggot

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

Comments from the Chair/Retail Update – The Bakery on State Street opened and is getting rave reviews and selling out. MBA Ribbon Cutting ceremony tomorrow. Yeeroh has opened/reopened. Scooped has reopened after renovations; John Reece (Scooped) has withdrawn his name from consideration for a Board seat. Greg Quintiliano (Dos Gringos) has expressed interest and hopes to attend next meeting.

Motion to recommend S. Baggot to Borough Council for MBA Board made by D. Sibley. Unanimous approval.

Garrison 501st (Star Wars enactors) have been contacted for appearance at first night of Dining Under the Stars (May 4) – waiting for confirmation. Also hoping to add a nonprofit aspect to DUTS.

Comments from Vice Chair – D. Connolly reviewed the discussion of committee structure. A wish list was created including the Main Street 'pillars' and the things MBA is already doing. Potentially 5 committees: 'Food' Events; General ('non-food') Events; Communications/Online; Community Engagement/Volunteers; Retail/Personal Services. Committees will break into specific sub-groups as appropriate, and interested citizens beside Board members can serve on committees. D. Fairman expressed thanks to the Executive Committee for the discussion and ideas. Committee descriptions will be presented at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – E. Blanchard explained that each month vendor payments are listed in the report so that committees can confirm that payments are going out consistently. Discussion followed of the balance sheet showing a generally good situation based on average monthly expenses. Explanation of 2022 budget and estimates of costs and anticipated income, overall budget set at 'break-even' point but there are opportunities for changes to the budget. D. Fairman commented that E. Blanchard is on top of the finances to keep us on track. D. Fairman also expressed thanks to T. D'Ignazio for finding Anne Lindemann and that she's given us great parameters to keep us on track and in a positive direction.

Restaurant Week – D. Sibley reported the Spring Restaurant Week will be April 3-9. After some discussion, consensus was to keep the fee for participation the same as last year (\$150).

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Also noted that SZNL closed permanently, a replacement is expected, details to be announced soon. Quotations will be rebranding, but the new name has not been announced yet.

Executive Director Report – Written report distributed. D. Fairman reported spending time working on LCB requirements for DUTS. It is helpful for all the restaurants to file simultaneously so LCB can make a single application and inspection in one visit. Anthony Bellapigna was helpful in dealing with LCB. D. Fairman is working on potential sponsors for DUTS – and will include options for non-profit participation and the potential for a permanent stage for live performances. Will also work with L. Graham on a procedural binder on the processes involved with Dining Under the Stars. S. Baggot asked about School of Rock and Rockdale Music as a local connection.

General event planning is underway, including determination of which events MBA can and should manage. Calendar to be worked on. Discussion with Jon Schaffer who has done the Chester County Country Music Festival and the pop-up skating rinks, perhaps there is opportunity to have them provide event management if the numbers work.

M. Straw asked about new businesses and D. Fairman indicated a specialty retailer (vintage-inspired gift shop) is a good possibility, and others interested but seem less likely. A few commercial property owners are beginning to look to the MBA as a resource and pre-plan before a vacancy occurs, which is encouraging.

Borough Liaison – E. Romaine confirmed the letter of interest for S. Baggot will be presented at next council meeting.

New Business – H. Arata commented on a great write-up on several Media restaurants, being promoted on social media. D. Fairman indicated he sent messages congratulating those included.

Recreation Department, Town Talk and Library have had conversations about the Halloween Parade. E. Romaine requested promotion from MBA. So far nothing is definite so further info will follow.

H. Arata encouraged a listing of events in current form, there is always the option to add more later. D. Fairman indicated plans to engage Results Repeat for a website ‘facelift’ to disperse information and schedules.

M. Straw motion to adjourn; unanimous approval at 7:35 PM.

Next meeting March 22, 6:30 PM

Prepared by David Sibley, Secretary. 2/28/2022