



## **MBA Board Meeting Minutes, May 25, 2021**

Frank Daly called the meeting to order via Zoom conference at 6:01 pm .

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

Absent: Paul Maranka, Brittany Scharr

**Consent Agreement:** T. D'Ignazio motion to approve April Minutes – unanimous approval. H. Arata motion to approve Financial Reports as submitted – unanimous approval.

**Comments from the Chair:** None

**Outdoor Dining** – D. Sibley reported the addition of a June sponsorship agreement including volunteers on Wednesday evenings. Media Police have indicated they will have two officers assigned to Wednesday dining nights.

**Retail Perspective** – H. Arata reported some businesses have mask policies continuing. Discussion followed regarding the June 1 lifting of PA restrictions. Anticipate a June/July opening for the Bakery coming on State Street. Discussion followed regarding MBA ribbon cutting events for new businesses – idea was well received. T. D'Ignazio asked if there is a listing of new or closing businesses in the Borough, D. Fairman indicated the future database will be very helpful in maintaining that type of information but it will be a lot of work inputting the data initially. Jim Jeffery may be helpful in getting that information because he already has much of the data for the Borough businesses.

**Restaurant Perspective** – P. Maranka conveyed that Media Restaurant Week overlapping with outdoor dining was confusing to guests and to staff but will unlikely be an issue in 2022 because dining normally begins in May. Future Restaurant Weeks can probably last just 7 days rather than lasting longer as it did this April.

**Finance** – T. D'Ignazio reported that further work is needed on the budget, revising to compare actual against our original projections.

**Executive Director** - D. Fairman reviewed outdoor dining signups and income for 2021. There are a few restaurants with tables out that have not paid. D. Fairman will deal directly with each to resolve the issue. In general, the number of seats restaurants have signed up for matches the actual numbers they are putting out. There are currently 20 restaurants registered. MBA should consider a small fee increase for 2022.

D. Fairman has offered to meet virtually with business owners in small groups. This has already proved to be a helpful interaction.

## May 25, 2021 Minutes – Page 2

Discussion followed regarding selling MBA merchandise at outdoor dining nights, volunteers and a strategy are needed to implement this.

Discussion of recent seminars regarding PA Downtown Center and National Main Street Center – D. Fairman will prepare a summary and present it in the near future.

**Borough Liaison** - L. Johnson reported Borough Council increased parking fees and fines throughout the Borough. The times of enforcement have not changed.

H. Arata asked about Mass Gathering Permits – none being approved at this time.

**Open Discussion** - M. Straw asked about in-person MBA Board meetings. Perhaps offer a zoom option. Polled the Board about meeting start times. Consensus for 6:30 start time. Public advertisement of the change may be needed.

D. Sibley proposed an event to honor Zubair Khan – general agreement. Sub-committee formed to develop this idea: F. Daly, H. Arata, D. Krull and D. Sibley. Will meet before the June Board Meeting and report back.

D. Sibley proposed a 'Food Truck' event to be held on Front Street and suggested an August date since several weekend events appear to be in the works for September. F. Daly requested polling restaurants to get a sense of their reaction about the idea.

E. Blanchard asked what other events are planned this year. D. Fairman replied we need to get busy on Holiday planning (Thanksgiving Friday through New Years Eve).

D. Krull asked if there will be a car show this year. D. Fairman replied it is a Board decision. H. Arata commented that the event didn't benefit Media businesses very much and that the group has planned an event elsewhere so it is unlikely there will be a car show this year.

F. Daly reported that there is interest in a Jazz Fest event, Paris Bradley wants to do it. The event usually only breaks even. D. Krull suggested maybe a scaled-down version this year and adjust the pricing to make it more beneficial.

M. Straw reported that there will be a June proclamation regarding Pride Month.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Movie event is considering options. Friends of Glen Providence Park and MAC are all busy with other events. Discussion of getting sponsors to cover the costs (about \$800). Possible restaurant participation to make it happen. Possible mass gathering permit to close the street during the event. L. Graham suggested contacting the library to inquire about possibly using their license for the movie to save on expenses.

H. Arata reported the Friends of Glen Providence Park music series starting up. They are also doing a fundraiser with MAC to do outdoor murals. There was a request to add events to the MBA web calendar and it was suggested emailing the info to D. Fairman.

There will be a need this summer for volunteers to help with the bows for the wreaths.

M. Straw motion to adjourn; unanimous approval at 7:31PM.

Next meeting June 22, 6:30 PM.

*Prepared by David Sibley, Secretary. 5/26/2021*