

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting
Jewelry District Association & Jewelry District Foundation
December 8, 2015
Clean Plate Restaurant
345 S. Main Street, Providence, RI

Winding up an eventful year, the Jewelry District Association held its annual meeting at Clean Plate restaurant on Tuesday, December 8th. With new development moving ahead on a number of fronts, the meeting provided an opportunity for bringing the membership up to date.

Following a congenial social hour, two visual presentations gave us vivid glimpses of the way new developments promise to revitalize the District.

Bob Azar, Associate Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development offered a slide presentation of projects proposed, approved and/or underway in the District and Downcity. He detailed an exciting future of new hotels, new office space and a range of condo, apartment and student residences, from the complex at South Street Landing to two extended stay hotels now going through approval processes. He noted that something like 1,000 new living spaces are contemplated for the center city and the District; current occupancy approaches 99%. The presentation is accessible on the JDA website..

JDA Board member Al Dahlberg showed us a Brown University video outlining long-range thinking and vital role of partnerships in the school's major expansion going forward in the district. The video is accessible on the JDA website.

President Salisbury called the business portion of the meeting to order and offered special thanks to Clean Plate restaurant for hosting the meeting. After a brief review of the financial state (healthy) of both the Jewelry District Association and the Jewelry District Foundation, he turned the floor over to Sharon Steele for a review of what the JDA has accomplished in the past year.

Planning & Zoning / *Phoebe Blake*, Chair

City Walk

- Providence Journal (1/3/15) celebrates the City Walk Study.
- Convened meeting at Providence Foundation of 60 interested parties, including the Mayor & Director of Planning, to refine recommendations outlined in City Walk Study
- Organized & conducted the Spring / Earth Day clean-up with support from Brown's Facilities Department, Cushman & Wakefield & the Providence Parks Partnership
- Participated in Jane's Walk tours: two in Jewelry District & four on West Side sections of City Walk.
- Presented overview of City Walk Study to I 195 Commission at their November monthly meeting.

Infrastructure / *Ken Orenstein*, Chair

- Coordinated with DOT on roadwork, signage, traffic signals, landscaping, utilities & other infrastructure issues for the Jewelry District, including the I-195 corridor.

Membership / *Tom Donovan, Chair*

- Organized the entire membership record system, purged outdated data, updated membership roll & created a working document for billing & record keeping that has been desperately needed to create accurate membership & dues records for our association.
- Thanks to Betty Dana for her outreach to solicit new members for the JDA by delivering brochures to many neighborhood businesses

Website / *Lew Dana, Olin Thompson*

- Site is getting consistent traffic (1500 hits per month), including more restaurant queries & provides news, timely announcements, history of the District, current development activity & links to project presentations & updates.
- Can now click on Topics...Latest item offers good reasons to get out & USE OUR PARK.
- Touring cameras point out unsafe street signs, blocked sidewalks & other infrastructure glitches that someone should fix

Nightlife / *Anthony Santurri, Chair*

- Provided outreach to almost all of the new & existing clubs & nightlife venues in not only the Jewelry District, but for every other neighborhood association that asked for his assistance.
- Met with the Mayor to help create a new position in the Administration to coordinate nightlife for our City, while representing us in the Hospitality Resources Partnership.

Quality of Life / *Sharon Steele, Chair*

- Represented & advocated for the Jewelry District at all weekly Board of License Meetings and Appeal hearings at the Department of Business Regulation.
- Testified in numerous Board of License hearings to roll back hours of problem clubs, revoke licenses of other clubs to ensure public safety & cause other licenses to be non-renewed based on an habitual pattern of violence & excessive noise in neighborhoods
- Monitored monthly meetings of I-195 Commission, City Council & Finance Committee; attended and commented at relevant Design Review Commission meetings; attended PPS & joint meetings with other neighborhood associations.
- Met with JWU President Mim Runey to discuss & advance our mutual goals for the Jewelry District.
- Continued to meet regularly, with Brown University leaders & those of the hospitals in our District to advance our positions & assist institutions in reaching their goals.
- Met with City Council President Aponte, COO Brett Smiley, Chief of Staff Tony Simon, Deputy Chief of Staff Theresa Agonia, City Solicitor Jeff Dana, Chief Hugh Clements, Major Tom Verdi & Major David Lapatin to advocate for the JDA & secure improvements in communications & outcomes for our residents & business owners.
- Raised the profile of the JDA by taking a leadership role in advocating for our neighborhood by preserving our future park on Parcel 4 in the I 195 corridor, by defeating the Stadium proposal

through grass roots organizing & outreach to the press, to ensure that no public monies & no tax subsidies will ever be used to build any private stadium in the City of Providence.

- Scheduled meetings with Deputy Director of DOT Peter Garino & our major stakeholders (Brown, CV Properties & the JDA) to hold DOT accountable for funding & building the pedestrian bridge, fully designed (but two years behind schedule) beginning Spring, 2016.

President Salisbury then introduced the slate of nominees for election to the **Board of the Jewelry District Association for 2016-2018:**

Term: December 2015-November 2017

Everett Brooks, Johnson & Wales University

Lewis Dana, Resident

Thomas Donovan, Cushman & Wakefield

Richard Jaffe, Davol Square Jewelry Mart Corporation

Ed Marchwicki, Marchwicki and Associates

Leslie Myers, Architect

Ken Orenstein, Lamborghini/Feibelman, Ltd

Arthur Salisbury, Arthur F. Salisbury, Architect, Resident

Sharon Steele, Real Estate Broker

Olin Thompson, Engineer, Resident

Term: December 2015–November 2016

Jody Bishop, Lifespan/Rhode Island Hospital

Phoebe Blake, resident

Gail Costa, Care New England/Women’s and Infants’ Hospital

Albert Dahlberg, Brown University

John Dorr, Mirabar Nightclub

Jennifer Laurelli, Dir.of Development,

Providence Children’s Museum

Peter McClure, Resident

Peter McNally, Executive Director 195 Redevelopment District Commission

Anthony Santurri, Colosseum Nightclub

Barbara Thornton, Architect Brewster/Thornton Architects

Nominees for election to the Board of the Jewelry District Foundation for 2016-2018:

Term: December 2015 - November 2017

Ken Orenstein, Lamborghini/Feibelman, Ltd

Arthur Salisbury, Architect, Resident

Term: November 2015–November 2016

Lewis Dana, Resident

Thomas Donovan, Cushman & Wakefield

Ed Marchwicki, Marchwicki and Associates
Olin Thompson, Engineer, Resident

Slate of Nominees for Officers of the 2015 JDA Board:

Arthur Salisbury, President
Sharon Steele, Vice President
Ed Marchwicki, Treasurer
Thomas Donovan, Secretary

Slate of Nominees for Officers of the 2015 JDF Board:

Ken Orenstein, President
Arthur Salisbury, Vice President
Ed Marchwicki, Treasurer
Olin Thompson, Secretary

A call for votes was made and the slates of board members and officers were approved by unanimous vote. Following very brief discussion of the dues structure, Salisbury stated that, continuing long practice, regular JDA meetings will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the Brown School of Professional Studies, 200 Dyer Street, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August when no meeting will be held.

Following a welcome to the incoming board members and officers, Salisbury asked Vice President Sharon Steele to outline the Goals that the JDA has identified for 2016:

Sharon Steele:

City Walk

Work with City, Providence Foundation, other organizations & individuals in pursuit of grants & other forms of support... Continue development of content, design, construction, website & installation of signage for project.

Pedestrian Bridge

Build coalitions with major stakeholders to ensure that bridge design RFP is issued at start of New Year to ensure that construction begins in Spring, 2016 for completion no later than Spring/Summer, 2017. In the event any delay in this schedule arises, organize a grass roots effort & take our demands directly to the Governor.

Public Park on Parcel 4

Meet with stakeholders to develop programming & funding mechanism to ensure that Park becomes a Project for Public Spaces example for other small cities to follow in activating their cities to support & enhance urban living, while providing an important asset for the continued

development of the I 195 corridor... our future for economic stability & the key to the ultimate success & viability of the Jewelry District, our home, as the neighborhood for our future.

Transportation

Work with RIPTA & the City on expanding viable mass transportation options as population grows in the District. Oppose trolley/streetcar

Website

Use site to promote all businesses in the District & distribute our brochures at Visitor's Centers, Mayor's office, Providence Foundation & Commerce Corporation offices at ALCOA. Investigate possibility of updating Jewelry District map to become interactive, build traffic to the site to attract more sponsors and support expanding news & features.

Outreach

Lead the effort to form a coalition of City neighborhood associations & umbrella organization. The City is approaching a financial tipping point at which we will need to leverage our power to advocate for goods & services that are essential to the viability of ALL our neighborhoods.

Communication

Continue to attend & participate in all the City & Commission meetings to advocate for the District. Invite the URI administration to become an active participant in the JDA, given their new investment in the Nursing School at South Street Landing & the residences at River House.

Leadership

Expand our leadership role in City governance, the I-195 Commission and the continued development of our neighborhood to attract grocery & drug stores and become the fully functional neighborhood that our new residents and businesses both deserve and will certainly demand.

This concluded the business meeting. Salisbury then joined with Phoebe Blake and Sharon Steele to present awards of recognition.

To Janice O'Donnell, former Executive Director of the Providence Children's Museum:

"In Sincere Appreciation for Outstanding Citizenship, Willing Participation, Creative Initiative and Unstinting Effort in the Cause of the Betterment of Our Neighborhood & the City of Providence at large."

"You have sought to make the Jewelry District a better place in which to live, work and enjoy throughout the year & despite hours devoted to the Jewelry District Association, you found time to bring the Providence Children's Museum into a new era with expanded facilities, growing membership and blossoming attendance."

“With many thanks and best wishes for the years ahead.”

To Brown University, Christina Paxson, Russell Carey and Albert Dahlberg:

“In Sincere Appreciation for Demonstrating Extraordinary Corporate Citizenship, Cooperation and Responsibility in the Cause of the Betterment of Our Neighborhood & the City of Providence at large.”

“Over the years Brown University has used its major presence in the Jewelry District in many positive and creative ways – providing facilities for our monthly meetings, invaluable help with our annual clean up and the creation of the Ship Street pocket park, to cite a few recent examples.”

“And because you include the Association in your forward planning process, we know Brown will continue to add new life and vibrancy to the place where we work, live, play and – yes – study.”

“With many thanks and high hopes for our years ahead together.”

On these positive notes of gratitude and appreciation, the meeting concluded, at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted, December 14, 2015, by Lewis D. Dana.