

Jewelry District Association
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016

Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm by acting chair, **Sharon Steele** with a request for round-the-table introductions by attendees.

A. Santurri requested the floor for a brief, urgent clarification: an incident the preceding Saturday night was reported by the media to have involved The Colosseum. The incident, he said, happened at Chestnut & Friendship Sts. with no connection to the Colosseum whatsoever. After he requested correction, the media updated their reports.

1. **Steele** asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the April 12 minutes. **Thompson:** so moved; motion approved.

2. Police Report: **Lt. Smith** reporting for the Providence P.D. noted that things were “really” quiet in the District. Most of the action taking place near the Roxy downtown. One event near 55 Claverack St. early one morning when a gang of seven “jumped” someone, apparently club related. He brought up a new enforcement challenge: synthetic marijuana. Can’t arrest someone until lab tests are done. Felony charges result, as with cocaine. But they’ve stopped someone seven times, and are awaiting lab tests. **Sgt. McKenna:** Nothing to add.

Steele: What about pan handling? **Smith:** Not a crime. Unless aggressive, such as blocking a doorway. A very gray issue. We’re trying to get social services more involved. **Steele:** At Coal Fired Pizza, a man was standing two feet from the door demanding cash. **Smith:** Major Verdi will be speaking at the Downtown Neighborhood Association meeting on this.

3. **Steele:** Mayor Elorza had asked for time at our meeting tonight, but cancelled. He wanted to talk about the economy. **Brooks:** He’ll be at the WBNA later tonight.

4. **Steele:** Nothing to report on possible legal counsel.

5. **Steele:** Anything on I-195? **McNally:** Very excited about what Olin Thompson and his group are up to. **Steele:** The RFP for bids on the Pedestrian Bridge will be going out soon. Nothing visible until early 2017. RIDoT says it’ll be finished in the Spring/Summer of 2018 -- when South Street Landing will have been open for a year. **Lt. O’Connor:** It’s worth considering putting a blue-light Emergency Kiosk there, tied in to South Street Landing and the Medical School security systems. We did that on Thayer St. with Gilbane. **McNally:** Anything we can do to help, we’re glad to cooperate. **Steele:** I’ll send a text to Scott Dumont at CV Properties.

Committee Updates:

A. Planning & Zoning: **Steele:** P. Blake is away; nothing to report. No news on 44 Hospital St. South Street’s parking garage is now above ground and moving fast. **McNally:** CV-Wexford is going through the due diligence phase on the purchase of Parcel 42

- B. Quality of Life **Sharon Steele**: Business as usual at the Board of Licenses. Ongoing problems with The Loft at Mile & a Quarter. Three or four episodes in three weeks. Closing was appealed to DBR and was thrown out. **Santurri**: Violence? **Steele**: Saw videos at BoL Someone nearly pushed out of a 2nd story window. Not enough security. 22 police arrived. **Santurri**: I asked because punishment should be progressive. **Steele**: Jeff Pine was hired to report on licensing administration and his report is due in three or four weeks.
- C. Infrastructure **Steele** (for Orenstein): We're talking to Leo Perotta at traffic. Cars are moving up Clifford St. at lightspeed. Corner is blind for northbound drivers on Chestnut St. **Dana**: Every morning horns blare as someone runs the light there. **Steele**: Parking meters are an issue; the local merchants fought them off on Wickenden. Now Thayer Street is asking, "What about us?!!"
- D. Membership **Arzoomanian**: \$2025 in the bank now for 2016.
- E. Website **Dana**: We keep adding stuff, and post updates on ongoing projects and upcoming events, such as the *Building Bridges* event. Take a look! **Thompson**: Consistently get 12-1300 hits a month.
- F. *Building Bridges Providence* event **Steele**: Concerned because nothing seemed to be happening on the bridge and the park, a group formed to stir up some action. Idea is have a series of events on the park land. Work with other groups (it's not a JDA initiative). First event is May 28, from noon to 8 pm, when WaterFire begins. Bands, seating in a tent, Matunuck Oyster Bar catering; we're working with police and the 195 Commission etc. \$15 per person gets you entry and a free drink. It's Brown commencement weekend. We're going around the hotels handing out flyers and talking to concierges.
- G. Night Life **Santurri**: The Fatt Squirrel is closed. We don't know who's considering the space. The Art Bar supper club idea is on hold. No activity in the space above Club Ego. The Spot would like to find a different location; our two audiences (Colosseum/Spot) are not a comfortable mix age-wise. The Responsible Night Club Owners are meeting at my place with Mayor Elorza. Looking for ideas, such as how to handle party buses. In 2010 had discussions and laid out parameters, but that kind of went away.
Three a.m. closing continues to be a problem. **Dorr**: Can't make the meeting with the Mayor, but here's my point: I have to close at Two. But I pay the same license fee as the Three a.m. places. And that's where my customers go. All I want is a level playing field.
Santurri: Chris Harris (Club Ego) bought South Street Club and sold it to Richard Storky (sp?) who's going to open a neighborhood place: Cafe at South Street.
- H. Returning to previous issue(s): **Dorr**: Panhandling is legal? **Smith**: Not enforcing the law that says it's illegal. City Hall decided to keep it on books in case Supremes say it's OK. **Brooks**: I got an e-Mail suggesting that instead of giving money to panhandlers, donate it to CrossRoads. **Santurri**: Does it increase in warmer months? **Smith**: Ordinance was to protect businesses, but now it's going to increase. If there's a threat, fear, coercion, or it's on private property, it's a no no. But don't enforce it yourself; call us, and stay around to file a complaint.

- I. A Note of Appreciation **Laurelli**: Many thanks for the Clean Up. Sorry to say, it was school holiday week, our busiest time, so I could only be there for a short while. But big thanks to everybody and especially to Brown University.
- J. Brown University **Silberman**: It's a pleasure to introduce the JDA to Collette Creppell, who has just joined us at Brown as the University Architect. **Thornton**: Welcome. What's it like to be the Brown Architect. **Creppell**: Well, Providence is a fabulous place after many years in New Orleans!
- K. **Santurri**: The one-year old Downtown Neighborhood Association meets tonight. We want to connect with the other neighborhood associations. **Steele**: Yes, to reach out on our shared issues. **Santurri**: By the way, for that purpose if you wanted to, we could have a Saturday afternoon joint event, say from 4-7, in the patio at the Colosseum.
- L. **Steele**: Any other business? If not, may we have a motion to adjourn? A chorus of motions, seconds, ayes and sounds of chairs scraping away from the table.

Adjourned at 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted 12 June 2016 by Lewis D. Dana