

Jewelry District Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017

At approximately 4:00 pm, JDA President **Salisbury** called the meeting to order and requested round-the-table personal introductions of attendees. That accomplished, he asked for approval of the minutes of the October meeting, which was unanimously given.

1. Police report: **Lt. San Lucas, Providence Police Dept.** Hasn't been a busy week. One interesting event: a girl-fight broke out Downcity, and in the ensuing melee a purse was stolen. Perpetrator used a credit card from the purse to order a pizza delivery to her home. The police arrived there, too, and made an arrest. In another incident, tires and rims were stolen; owner saw them advertised for sale on FaceBook. Unfortunately for the thief, the victim was an associate at the A.G.'s office.

NOTE: Lt. San Lucas has been promoted to Captain and will be moving to a different role in the Department. In making the announcement, his commander noted that San Lucas will remain very involved in the district during the transition to a new district Lieutenant.

2. Tree Update. **Salisbury**: Olin Thompson did a great job getting 15 new trees planted in the District on the weekend of October 25th. **Thompson** quickly amended the facts, commenting that Allison Paschke was the engineer behind the successful tree planting. "She doesn't come to meetings; she just gets things done." **Thompson**: We call it ***Greening the Jewelry District***. On Friday, we had 10 Brown and JWU students and other volunteers. City cuts the holes in the sidewalks, provides clean soil and mulch and gives us the trees, in connection with the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program. We've contracted with a local non-profit, GroundWorks, to water the new trees. Then, in the Spring, we'll keep on Greening the Jewelry District with 15 more trees. Allison also had a crew of mostly Brown students plant hundreds of crocus bulbs around new and old trees, on Friday and Saturday.

Salisbury: May we vote approval for \$750 to water the new trees until Dec. 1st? All hands in the air in **approval**.

3. Pedestrian Bridge Update **Steele**: The steel will start going on right after Thanksgiving, on schedule for completion in September 2018.

4. **Salisbury**: We have received a request from David Reilly to join other neighborhood associations and support the City's appeal to the state siting board in favor of burying the high tension lines that cross India Point Park. **Dahlberg**: lines run from Manchester St. generating plant across the Providence River. A second set of very old lines on equally old towers cross the soccer fields. National Grid is trying to get the siting board to reject burying the lines. **Salisbury**: We will incur no expenses by supporting the appeal, but I need approval to sign for the JDA. **Unanimous approval** to join in the appeal.

Dana: Olin Thompson and I have been discussing JDA ways to reach out more widely to the community for members and increase participation in our activities. We'll keep you updated.

3. Committee Updates

Planning & Zoning Blake: Implementation of CiTY WALK is about to begin. From 6-8 on November 28th, at the South Side Cultural Center there will be a public meeting to discuss ideas for the west section — from the Providence River to Roger Williams Park. Everyone is invited, and we hope you'll come!

Quality of Life Steele: The Penthouse saga continues. On November 9th, the Department of Business Regulation (doing business as the DBR) granted a stay of a license suspension, thus allowing the Club to remain open with conditions. This in a period when 4 separate incidents and 5 shots fired. A new case hearing is set for Dec. 27th. The press has been sufficiently bad to to Mayor to ask Juan Pichardo to resign as B of L chairman. Board member Dylan Conley was elected Chairman to replace him.

Councilman Yurdin: I've been pushing for a more engaged board and Mayor. Thanks to an incident that got the light to shine brightly on the situation things are happening. We need solid, intelligent people on the board. And, at the state level, there's criticism of the DBR and a desire to focus on what reforms are possible.

Steele: A procedures manual has been adopted by the B of L. It remains to be seen whether they will follow it. **McClure:** Problem is the Solicitor's Office? **Steele:** They present woeful cases, so maybe nothing will change. **Prov P.D. Major:** The people at The Vault on Atwells know exactly what to say to the B of L. **Santurri:** And it's so easy to create a night club. We have total of 130 places... for 3 inspectors to cover. And they check other kinds of licenses, too! Comm. of Pub. Safety Pare has quarterly meetings on nightclub safety and legal operation; BV & BX license club owners don't show up. *(Discussion continued at length on types of licenses, enforcement and ways owners get around regulations..)* **Santurri:** With rents so high, it's almost impossible to make money as a simple restaurant, so they apply and at night turn into clubs

McClure: Do companies considering locating in Providence want their employees to live in an ineptly run city? **Dahlberg:** Exactly the point! **Salisbury:** I keep telling the I-195 Commission that they should be concerned about this..

Membership Salisbury: To date, \$3450.

Website Dana: Take a look now and again.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted, 9 December 2017, by Lewis D. Dana

