

Jewelry District Association
Board Meeting March 11, 2014
Brown Department of Continuing Education

Board Members Attending: Arthur Salisbury, President; Phoebe Blake, Tom Donovan, Richard Jaffe, Ken Orenstein, Sharon Steele

Pres. **Salisbury** called the meeting to order at 4:04, and asked for the police report.

Police Report: **Lt. O'Hara** of the Brown Police Dept. said that the big news was the closing of Club Karma, pending an appeal through the Dept. of Business Regulation, adding that if they can get their license back it will be easier to sell the place. With regard to the new Fatt Squirrel on Chestnut St., there have been some traffic jams and people gathering outside. We're checking to see what kind of operation they are running. **Dubler**: I call the police when the crowds don't disperse. **Santurri**: Frank LaTorre and Arthur and I have talked with them about security, They wanted to outsource it. **Garber**: They are not very responsive to requests from 150 Chestnut condo owners. **Salisbury**: those aren't legal issues, they're up to the Condo Assoc. They seem to be trying. **Santurri**: Yes, they are trying for a 25+ lounge and bar crowd.

Lt. O'Hara: a heads up -- the Sidebar plans a big outdoor party on Pine St. between Dorrance and Peck on St. Patrick's Day. There will be extra officers on site. On another topic, the Bank of America skating park is looking for a new spot. Maybe a temporary spot on the 195 land.

Brodie: Talked with them: they need a hard surface. Maybe over by Victory Plating? There are some hard surfaces left there.

Lt. O'Connor for PPD: report about same as Lt. O'Hara's. We'll be watching parking lots for thefts. **Salisbury**: 116 Chestnut is talking with Brown U. about putting a camera overlooking our parking lot. We could arrange for the police to access the cameras.

Planning & Zoning Committee **Blake**: The anticipated leases for the Brown/URI/RIC development of the power plant are anticipated to be finalized in this legislative session. Design is already underway. Could be 1,600 people in there. 200 beds. **Salisbury**: It might work better if they would consider putting housing to the north of the power station, parking garage in Davol lot, with active retail & offices on first floor.

Blake: Providence zoning up date. Most District changes were made last year in D-1. In April there will be meetings on the general Providence zoning changes.

On cityWALK, we've signed a contract for an entire route study. We're in the fund-raising mode. **Salisbury**: Need \$15,000 for the first phase; we've already got \$6,000 from the Providence Foundation and the JDA. **Blake**: Three meetings are scheduled for reviewing the route details with Ron Henderson.

Also: Upcoming annual Jane Walk first weekend in May ... getting people out on free walking tours. Last year, there were 8 walks; we did one in the Jewelry District. This Friday, the Athenaeum is doing a Salon on it from 5 to 7 open to the public.

Santurri: Zoning and 195... will there be assurances that prevent possible misuse of licenses?

Salisbury: Yes, it's the problem of places with restaurant zoning morphing into night clubs. It's what is happening on Atwell's and Thayer. It's an issue of zoning versus licensing.

195 land development **Brodie:** Next week we are presenting to the Mayor's biking committee about embracing bike use in the street grid. And we're working with Bonnie Nickerson on signage/wayfinding. And pop-up art pieces to be put up this spring. There's a petition to abandon a small part of Eddy St. In front of the Marc Greenfield offices. We'd like to keep it open.

Quality of Life **Salisbury** (for Steele): Frank LaTorre and I are meeting with Johanna Harris, the new Chairman of the Board of Licenses to see how we can get the DBR and the BoL working together. (Salisbury briefly describes the DBR situation). Any further comments on Fatt Squirrel?

Santurri: Definitely someone we want to help stay in business. **Dubler:** The DJ is a problem on Friday and Saturday nights. People crowd around outside in the street. **Santurri:** it used to be a war zone, now its really reaching for the top of the market. **Garber:** But they rent the place out to other promoters on Saturday night. **Gallery owner:** Does renting require another license?

Dubler: When will the streets be paved? It's impossible to get to my car using a walker.

Salisbury: only paving scheduled is between Clifford and Friendship, and the restored streets. Nothing on Chestnut past Clifford. Now that's getting warmer, the infrastructure work will be restarting.

Membership **Donovan:** Compiling and revising the membership list for renewals.

Website **Dana:** How many people in the room have actually looked at the website? (Remarkably, about 40% raised their hands). News is posted as often as possible. Minutes are now available on site.

Night Life **Santurri:** Sidebar event on St. Patrick's day is big. They're nice folks. Should be OK. But big. On fund raising for cityWALK: in the spring we could do an afternoon event in the patio at the Colosseum. (I could hear music I like!) Maybe involve Mirabar, the Spot.

Karma is closed. Things are quieter. Their crowd still comes around. But on Saturday nights, we close lines early, and as Ultra does too, we turn people away based on dress code. **Dorr:** 333 Westminster is a good sized place with an "N" license; but they don't seem to know about the rules. **Dana:** Can Frank LaTorre drop by to say hello. **Blake:** Where do the out of town buses go now? **Lt. O'Hara:** Federal Hill. **Lt. O'Connor:** We're talking with Anthony about graduation week and educating other clubs about bringing in kids. We need to come up with a handout with standards for clubs.

Sharon Steele: Spoke with Gina Raimondo, and she is willing to come and do a Q&A session.

Salisbury: We've been approached by several candidates. **Jaffe:** Do it now or after primary?

(Discussion ensued about whether one candidate at a time, all candidates, possibility of candidate forum, perhaps working with Scott Wolfe and Grow Smart RI.) **Jaffe:** Why not issue invitations to all candidate to see who's interested in talking to us. The primary's in September.

At which point it was agreed to move on and the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm