

**Jewelry District Association**  
Board Meeting May 14, 2014  
Brown Department of Continuing Education

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

Also attending, Mayoral Candidate Brett Smiley, and Ms. Sanchez, Mayor's Office.

Pres. **Salisbury** called the meeting to order at 4:05, and asked for an approval of the minutes for the April 8 meeting which are posted on the JDA website. Verbal vote of approval.

**Salisbury** went on to summarize the funding to date for CITY WALK. JDA: \$500, JD Foundation: \$2,500, Hecht Development: \$250; RI Foundation: \$5,000, Colosseum: \$500. He added that a meeting will be scheduled with J&W; Brown U. has been approached.

Quality of Life Steele defers to Anthony **Santurri**: Fatt Squirrel remains an issue, not bad, just an apparent lack of staff control. **150 Chestnut resident**: They've added nights. Police have been called. Need to have another meeting. **Orenstein**: We need to move beyond individual deals, etc. and go to a set of rules for bars on "neighborliness." **Santurri**: There's a free 5-hour class that gives "Crowd Management Certification." **Orenstein**: An ordinance? **Santurri**: New chair of B of Licenses is only going to cooperate with people who are serious. The B of L has been assessing higher fines.

**Peter McClure**: The city council, with Seth Yurdin, has put 14 new regulations in place.

**Orenstein**: Is there some sort of info packet that is issued to new licensees? **Santurri**: It's fair to say that we have reclaimed the area from the old influences. **Salisbury**: Lt. O'Hara called and said he wanted to meet with the Fatt Squirrel. **Santurri**: a new noise ordinance is almost in place that will be in effect after 11 weekdays and midnight weekends, for the benefit of 200-foot abutters. A bar license requires owners to control and disperse crowds outside.

**Donovan**: What action has the 150 Condo Association taken in the Fatt Squirrel situation? **150**

**Chestnut Resident**: We met with the Fatt Squirrel manager and lawyer; nothing conclusive; none of procedures in place are being followed.

**Olin Thompson**: The police sent a horse around to see it that would help. **Salisbury**: Nothing has been reported to the B of L as far as we know. If trouble is severe, they can require a police detail. I will check with Lt. O'Hara to see if he has met with the Fatt Squirrel people. Also, recently we had an hour and a half meeting with Lou de Quatro and the chair of the Department of Business Regulation concerning their appeals process on license issues. **Santurri**: The B of L used to do pre-board hearings; now every incident goes before the full board. By the way, new ordinances require promoters to get licenses. **McClure**: we argued for a "promotor's bond."

**Orenstein**: What about the Civic Center? **Santurri**: the Dunk prepares for big events. The Roxy was casual and event got out of hand; they got fined \$7,000. **John Dorr**: When you push 250

people out o the street, you have a mob. **Salisbury:** Please, anyone, pass on news of the new license above Ego on Richmond Street. **Orenstein:** Can we get the 195 Commission to object, as 200-foot abutting property owner?

**Steele:** Other Q of L items, Olin Thompson ran a really great tour of the district for Jane's Walk.

**Thompson:** Jane's Walk is "Local tours by local people". My theme was "Why do I live in this neighborhood?" Did 2-1/2 hours, got lots of questions, and two requests for encore tours. Talked about buildings, etc. Tour finished on Point St. Bridge, looking up river.

**Orenstein:** Outside the building here you can now see where Eddy St. is going to be. Not every street is going to be re-paved. RIDoT has their sections ear-marked and the city has specified the ones they will do; and there's no money for anything else. **150 Chestnut Resident:** The street conditions are impossible for someone who needs a wheel chair; potholes, no curb cuts, etc.

District Clean-up **Orenstein:** We had very successful day. 15-18 people pitched in, including employees from Site Specific, Cushman & Wakefield and Life Span, a chain-saw operator from Brown and students from J & W. They cleaned up, mulched and trimmed trees (until we ran out of mulch). Brown sent a truck and a front loader and we hauled away three truck loads of trash. We got a mini-grant for equipment from the Parks Dept. Pizza on the patio at Nick'a'nees.

**Orenstein:** J & W is cutting the ribbon to open their new Physician's Assistant Bldg. at Clifford and Claverack Streets. Thursday, May 29. And 195 Commission's Jan Brodie wrote an article in Providence Business News on how parks are good for the economy. Let's put it on our website. **Santurri:** is the 195 project stagnating? **Thompson:** Developers aren't interested until the land is "pad ready."

**Santurri:** We've had some success with our teen night project. Parents involved. 15-18 years old. Lock away the liquor, turn on the music. Ultra tried it, but had a commotion, so I got calls from Lt. O'Hara, Chief Clement and Comm. Pare. Our experience has been much better but worry about keeping positive overall impression.

Planning & Zoning **Blake:** Pieces are falling into place for the \$206 million URI & RIC nursing schools & Brown admin. complex. Commonwealth Ventures will pay Heritage Harbor \$4.5 m. to relinquish an easement (requiring an RI history museum) and \$2.3 m. in historic tax credits.

Yesterday the Board of Ed. endorsed legislation for leasing terms. If approved by the Gen'l Assembly, the State would lease 133,000 s.f. for some \$6m a year for the nursing programs. Brown would lease 135,000 s.f. from developer for Admin. offices. Brown Corporation to vote this month. Work expected to start in 2015. **Orenstien:** Some of the \$\$\$ go back to pay off a loan. With rest of funds, Heritage Harbor Mus. will set up a foundation as a grant-maker in line with its original mission. Power plant will be the anchor for parking, housing, etc. Redevel. Agency will build parking.

Brown invites community input on changes to their Institutional Master Plan – incl. Power Plant and Engineering School on Thayer Street – Faculty Club, 1 Magee St., 5:30, tonite & tomorrow.

CiTY WALK: Arthur noted the big news: \$5,000 from the RI Foundation for planning with Ron Henderson. Friday our P&Z committee and City and I-195 officials will meet to set scenarios for larger meetings in June and July. Save: June 24 @ 5 p.m., July 15 @ 7 p.m.; locations TBD.

Earth Day Clean Up: Thank you, Ken and Tom. Let's see it again next year.

44 Hospital Street: Planning Dept. says no news; at this point any approvals have expired

Victory Plating site. Ward Baking, a rare example of Moderne Industrial architecture, has been on PPS's Most Endangered Properties List for three years. A demolition petition filed by Peregrine Group will be heard at the Hist. Dist. Comm. June 23rd at 4:45. Background: owner (who's moved out of state) originally planned to clear the entire site. PPS & JD residents argued that 461 Eddy St. should remain. Commission agreed, ordered 461 Eddy secured; all other buildings were demolished. In Jan. PPS did a walkthrough. JDA attended. PPS engineer wrote that the roof & 2nd floor have significant structural issues; exterior walls are in good condition. Open space & simple rectangular grid make replacement of roof/floors straightforward.

Rumor Tops on Point Street is the next prospect for demolition. Keep your ears open.

**Orenstein**: Congratulations to Phoebe and her committee for all the work on CiTY WALK. Especially for bringing other groups into it. It really shows that the JDA is a serious. Great PR.

**Salisbury**: Two upcoming meetings of note. 195 Redevelopment District Commission – Monday @ 5:00 PM. And City Zoning – June 11 at 6:00 PM.

With no further ado, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by L. D. Dana, June 9, 2014*