

Jewelry District Association
Board Meeting April 8, 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 4:05, and asked for the...

Police Report **Lt. O'Hara**, Providence Police Dept.: Activity seems to have increased everywhere. Arrests on Richmond St. on Saturday night included 3 charges of assault on a police horse. Arrestees were from out of state. Saturday night a fight occurred in the Garraghy parking lot. Injury did not prevent victim from going to Colosseum where he and friends encountered the perpetrator; Colosseum security summoned police who detained suspect. News channels erroneously reported "fight in club." **Thompson**: How many police on night detail. **O'Hara**: 10. **Erik (from Colosseum)**: And we hire two detail policemen. And our bouncers are certified; they need training to get the license. **O'Hara**: Big events have private emergency staff. We meet with owners, and post men at closing. **Det. Sgt.**: At the Fatt Squirrel, they are slow about 2 AM closing. Went in at 2:20, people at bar. Guy outside in car, loud music: Warned him "go or tow." **Thompson**: Not just Saturday. Noise outside late on Fridays. **Det. Sgt.**: We'll send people around. And the horses pass by.

Lt. O'Connor, Brown PD: Unfortunate incident at power plant. RISD students climbed up on fire escape of annex. The girl touched an 11,000 volt line. Getting access was extremely difficult for rescue.

Night Life **Salisbury**: Frank LaTorre and I met for two hours with the new Chairman of the Board of Licenses. We discussed our concerns, told her about meeting with the Dept. of Business Regulation. She agreed to join us in meeting with DBR again. No news about Karma's license appeal... the examining officer is on unexplained leave. **Det. Sgt.**: Karma crowd has moved across the street to Ultra. **Orenstein**: Next Tues. at 12 noon, zoning updating session includes Entertainment Licensing.

Erik from Colosseum: When the police arrested the stabber, they found a knife in his boot. We're still trying to figure out how our scanner missed it. We're considering a two-stage scan outside, wand and pat down inside. But now they make knives curved to fit behind a big belt buckle. Wand picks up buckle. **Lt. O'Connor**: Colosseum is tops on security.

Planning & Zoning Committee **Blake**: Last month we met CITY WALK's designer, Ron Henderson and his team for the first of 3 meetings. Soon we will have a logo and tagline: CiTY WALK Providence Connects. (Universal Resorts retail, restaurant and entertainment centers are trademarked CITYWALK, one word,. Thanks to Dan Baudouin, Hinckley Allen advised us pro bono to use "city walk" as two words.

Also, Olin Thompson procured a CITY WALK domain name. No content as yet.

Along City Walk west of I-95 Broad & Elmwood things are happening. A federal transit, safety and street improvement project starts this spring. Quisqueya in Action, a Dominican group in S. Prov., has arranged for 20 trees to be planted on Broad Street. The Mayor's Office storefront improvement program offers \$10,000 grants for awnings, paint, signs. Our efforts with City Walk will augment federal and City work west of I-95 as well as in the I-195 parcels east of I-95.

195 Commission: At the March meeting Jan Brodie reported the design of the riverfront parks and bridge was "getting to 30%". Providence Flea Market, a for-profit company, asked to lease its 195 Comm. land this summer for a nominal fee. The issue: the Comm. charged 95 Chestnut Street market rate for leased land. Lease endorsed; Exec. Dir. to determine fee.

Bonnie Nickerson briefed the Comm. on the trolley which the City views as a catalyst to growth along the 2.5 mile route (along Ship and Chestnut Sts. in the JD). City will apply again for a TIGER (Transit Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant, asking for \$28 million, as opposed to \$29 m. they failed to get last year. City will provide \$54 million in funding via a TIF district (1/4 acre around the trolley rte). 195 Comm. will write of letter of support.

Boston RE broker marketing 195 parcels nationally gave a sobering view of development in Providence without economic incentives. Construction costs same as Boston, rents half. Commission's lawyer asked "would it work if they gave away the land," broker replied, "It would be very difficult." Negative feedback: how will doing business with 195 be any different from prior experience in RI. Positive: comprehensive Developers' Toolkit; new permitting process saves developers 2 years; TIGER proposal would "dramatically" change the equation.

Petition by One Shipyard LLC to City to abandon a portion of Eddy Street between Ship and Clifford abutting Parcels 22 and 25. Comm. decided to oppose this because it would: limit development opportunities and access to both parcels and foreclose opening up Eddy Street through parcels as a road, open space or greenway — all are options in design guidelines.

Gov. Chaffee nominated former chief of staff Patrick Rogers, a lawyer at Hinckley Allen, and a drafter of legislation creating I-195 Commission to replace Barrett Bready. Barbara Hunger and Diana Johnson were nominated to additional 4 year terms.

Jane's Walk Sunday, May 4, **Olin Thompson** will see to it that the Jewelry District participates in this world-wide event honoring the legacy of Jane Jacobs who championed the interests of urban residents and pedestrians. Jane's Walk tours are led by local residents talking about what interests them about their neighborhood. So come on over and bring a friend and learn what Olin thinks about the Jewelry District.

Salisbury: JDA has been asked to write letter in support of the trolley project. Neither RIPTA nor RIDoT seem to be involved. **Orenstein:** When first proposed it was two + miles from the East side through the tunnel to Dudley at the Hospital. It no longer goes as far as the hospital. Existing bus services serve longer routes, from TFGreen to Attleboro T. It's not a transport initiative. Buses and trolley will be in conflict on Richmond and Chestnut. But, the first "Rapid" buses are coming: that will be a dramatic change. Let's get a system in place. **Salisbury:** Ergo, no letter.

Salisbury: On City Walk, talked with Ken Hecht at 95 Chestnut. He plans to put handicap ramps along his building on the north side of Clifford. He proposes we join him, the hospital and J&W in making application to buy a strip of land along Friendship's south side for a possible addition to 95 and the City Walk route. There'd be planting, a wider sidewalk for City Walk up to Claverack. **Jaffe:** Does that affect development potential? **Blake:** No sun on south side of Friendship. **Salisbury:** Maybe Ron can work it out. We'd need a sketch by May 1 when the bid needs to be in. **Orenstein:** Does it hurt anything to do this? **Thompson:** Get an option; don't have to use it. Once the horse leaves the barn it's too late to reapply. **Blake:** Of course City Walk will jog back and forth. I'll ask Ron to do a sketch to use now to secure the area. **Orenstein:** College Hill N.A.'d love to see City Walk happen. They're working on Seekonk River project which has possible tie in. Also went to West Broadway NA across the "Big Divide." **Blake:** That's why we're billing this as the East/West connector. **Orenstein:** Need to get \$2,500 from the JDA Foundation for City Walk.

Quality of Life Committee **Salisbury:** Called the 44 Hospital St. architect twice. No response. Don't know what's happening there. **Steele:** Hate to be Debbie Downer, but we need to find a way to make residential use exist with everything else. (Discussion of lady who worried about stabbings, only small units selling, banks not liking mixed-use.) **Thompson:** We need to get something on-line so people say, Wow! looks like great things are going on there.

Infrastructure Committee Earth Day Clean Up 2014 **Orenstein:** We need to put in a request for a street sweeper as part of the clean up. I'm meeting with Brown and others on the 16th to get ready. **Salisbury:** Paving begins this week on restored Clifford and Friendship Streets.

Website Committee **Dana:** Current minutes are now being posted under: Association / Monthly Meetings. **Thompson:** Getting about 1,500 hits a month, 1,000 unique. And we have a new advertiser, ArtProv Gallery.

Salisbury: Any other items? Next meeting, 4.00 pm, Tuesday, May 6, usual place.

Meeting adjourned 5:25.

Respectfully submitted, Lewis D. Dana, April 29, 2014