

Jewelry District Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm by President **Salisbury**, who called attention to the posting of minutes for the **May** meeting on the JDA website and requesting approval thereof.

2. Police Report: **Lt. Smith**: PVD Fest expected 70,000 Gay Pride & WaterFire attendees calls for a large police presence. (Hands out weekly crime report) Current increased foot and bike posts in the financial district are aimed at public drinking and urination.

Of great concern: artificial marijuana. “K2” “Monkey weed.” Chemical sprayed on a sort of pot pourri, and looks like a joint. It’s potent: young people pass out in doorways. PD wants the Attorney General to do something. It seems to have a cognitive effect on users.

On aggressive panhandling, we need a public complaint to arrest someone. If you have trouble with someone, call us and wait for us to arrive, then we can charge disorderly behavior. Too often people have a problem, but when we get to the scene the complainant has left and there’s no way for us to do anything. **Baudouin**: Tell panhandlers you’re giving the money to Crossroads. **McClure**: PICA!

Smith: Car break-ins are so sporadic they’re hard to patrol against. Einbinder: A car with Mass plates was jacked up in the CAV parking lot and the wheels were stolen. Is there a contact number to call?

Smith: 272-1111.

Orenstein: Report looks good. Is there an upcoming Police Academy? **Smith**: Crime is definitely down. As far as the Academy, it won’t show results soon, and we’re 100 guys short. On other items, a vehicle came down Chestnut St., and at constricted point, driver waved a gun at someone who had made room for her to get past.

4. **Salisbury** calls for the ritual round-the-table introductions, then moves on to Harbor View Trail. I’ve received a batch of e-Mails about the obstruction of the trail entry. In the past, we looked into how the bars intruded into this designated park area. The city Parks Director is having her people look into it. The Whiskey Republic’s dumpster and terrace and porta-johns have taken over. **Orenstein**: There was supposed to be some sort of lease-back deal, but the City Council never executed it as far as we know. Coastal Resources Management Comm. requires a 50-foot setback. Only way to get anywhere is by meeting with the stake holders. **Salisbury**: Did you just volunteer to contact Wendy Nilsson and set up a meeting? (Flurry of comments on examples of mis-appropriation of public land.) **Orenstein**: Funny enough, Josh Miller has a lease for the decking at the Hot Club. **Blake**: Water access is a major principle of the Ocean State.

6. Update on Parcels 4 & 42 Apparently the division of 42 into three parcels had to go to the Feds for approval.

7. Pedestrian Bridge bids due the 24th. No new info.

8. Building Bridges. **Thompson** Our first event was a public relations success. The idea was to call attention to the need to get moving. Group feels the before and after publicity was great. And interest is

high for doing a “next” event. **Santurri**: You could do a small Saturday afternoon event on the Colosseum patio. **Thompson**: Great idea. We met last night and are looking at small events, maybe getting together with other groups for another big event. Parcel 4 is the focus. **Salisbury**: Peter McNally said last month that they are thinking of planting the park area with grass when the construction staging settles down.

Planning & Zoning. **Blake**: No news; some projects are moving along, some seem stalled, like 44 Hospital Street.

After our tree survey, we’ve queried City Forester about what the city will do and what outside funding sources there are. **Orensteen**: City suggest bollards to protect trees. **Salisbury**: As to who cut down tree at 150 Chestnut, city forester Doug Still said “It might have been us.” **Thornton**: It was; and prior owners of Mirabar site cut down trees on Elbow St. At South Street Landing the parking garage is rising fast.

Quality of Life **Steele**: One would think things are getting better, but they are not. Board of Licenses has reverted to the “silent hearings”: deals cut outside and announced at the hearings. Progressive penalties aren’t considered. The Pine Report is due to the City Council in a week or so.

Fatt Squirrel is out of business. The site owner is negotiating with someone. 95 Chestnut is back looking for a restaurant operator. At the DBR, the current director who’s been a breath of fresh air has been named to the P.U.C., but will remain at DBR, as well, if we understand correctly.

Infrastructure **Salisbury**: Ship Street is going one way northeast, all the way. **Dana**: There is a litter of street signs lying on the ground all over the District.

Membership **Arzomanian** Money keeps coming in a bit at a time.

Salisbury: Just got a call from Everett Brooks who’s leaving JWU after 18 years. (Comments from group about his service, personableness and hopes for quick re-employment. **Santurri**: My main connection; he’s always at our hospitality meetings.) **Salisbury**: I’ve already written Pres. Runey asking her to appoint a new representative, stressing importance of JWU involvement in the District.

Website **Dana**: We welcome suggestions for what can go on the site. If you see something interesting, say something! News, events, whatever; let me know, I’ll post it.

Night Life **Santurri** On Sunday, 12 hours after Orlando shock, got a call from Chief Clements, to talk about planned outdoor and club events. Got our committee together, then met with press and went on John DePietro’s show. We’re reaching out to all class N licenses on security. Impressed by quick response from city, especially with Gay Pride weekend coming up.

Salisbury: That’s the agenda. Any new business? Motion to adjourn? Meeting ends at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, 10 July 2016, by Lewis D. Dana