

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

**Pres. Arthur Salisbury** called the meeting to order at 4:03 and proceeded to the Police Report.

**Lt. O'Hara:** Fortunately, nothing extreme to report. The usual disorderly conduct. And, increasingly, downtown, incidents involving homeless people. Many of them don't want help.

**Lt. O'Conner:** Same for us. **O'Hara:** The homeless bill or rights seems to have encouraged it.

**A. Santurri:** We get the same 4 people night after night at the same spot. They say "It's our right."

**Salisbury:** We have three guests tonight for a special presentation. As you know, Johnson & Wales continues to expand its physical presence in Providence. I'm pleased to introduce **Wayne Kezirian**, Senior Vice President of Johnson & Wales who will tell us more about their plans.

**Kazirian:** How good is it to be sitting here in a university building anchoring the center of Providence? Remember the Outlet fire? That site became the eastern end of the J&W campus. We're working on 30 years of planned growth – a planning process that began in 1992.

Most recently, our new Physician's Assistant program began in the Jewelry District in what used to be called the "Pencil Building." Durkee, Brown Viveiros and Werenfels created a true medical building within its shell. Our new parking garage is now operating on the site of the old Mirabar. 750 spaces, primarily for commuting students. And now we're working on the construction of a 69,000 square foot building at the corner of Chestnut and Friendship for our School of Technology. The structure will wrap around the former Swedish Working Men's Clubg.

There's a lot of energy and activity to come on parcels 36 and 31. Parcel 31 once held a temporary 195 ramp. We paid market value of \$60 / sq. ft. – similar to what the 195 Commission is asking for other parcels. J & W is mindful of the historic Jewelry District surroundings.

Question: What's in the parking garage storefront spaces? We put the Wildcat Lounge in there, spaces for the commuting students with computer plug ins and other conveniences. Dean of Residence Life has a satellite office there. And Campus Safety.

**De Batista:** Traffic really picks up on Pine at 9 am and on Richmond. Can we get traffic to enter any faster? **Kazirian:** Yes, we're actively working on it. It really happens when the 7:30 am class gets out just as the 9:00 am class is arriving. It will take time to work it out. **Santurri:** Keep on the left as you head up Pine St. **Kezirian:** We do get a criss-cross pattern. We've been talking to Bob Azar at City Planning Dept. Problems, too, when PPAC closes Pine. It will help, eventually, when the Gerahy lot gets built. **Salisbury:** When Clifford goes outbound, that will help, too.

**McClure:** What's the mix of students? **Kezirian:** 12,500 full-time students, 55% downtown in the Business, Hospitality and Science departments. 45% at the Bay Campus in Culinary. Many Culinary students live at Capital Cove, many in science are at Bay. And we have students who spend a year at each campus around the country. **Salisbury:** Do you have a Master Plan.

**Kezirian:** Yes, in process, but "our clock isn't ticking."

**Salisbury:** What plans do you have for the parking lot between Friendship & Pine? **Kezirian:** That site has always been identified with Student Center activities, but we are not ready to commit.

**Salisbury:** I would just like to take a moment to comment on how helpful Everett Brooks has been and continues to be to us. He consistently offers help and supports what the JDA is trying to do for life in the District. We really appreciate it!

**Salisbury:** Thanks as well, to our speaker and his associates from coming today, this has been informative and interesting. We're delighted you took the time to update us on the J & W role in our community.

#### Planning & Zoning Committee **Blake:**

1. Asked what she would do on her 1st day in office, Governor-elect Raimondo responded, "Prioritize the I-195 project". Mayor-elect Elorza's campaign slogan "One Providence" bodes well for CiTY WALK, which directly links one-third of the City's neighborhoods and connects with existing routes such as Riverwalk and the East Bay bikeway.

2. The CITY WALK Study is due today and will shortly be posted on the JDA website. Beside the overall plan, it includes some 7 areas of design investigation. Please take a look, let us know what you think, and please consider volunteering for one of the interventions.

3. Meanwhile, focused thinking on getting Providence going again took place last weekend at the Preservation Society's Symposium "NOT ALWAYS EASY. Building the new Urban Experience" which some JDA members attended. Two panels discussed spurring the buildout of the Jewelry District.

"Making the South Street Power Station Work" was led by Dick Galvin, developer of South Street Landing as it's now called, with Brown VP Russell Carey; Pres. Dooley, URI; Lisa Smith, Finance, RIC; Don Gralnek, Dir. Providence Redevel. Auth. They told us how this complicated \$215 M collaboration came about through weekly meetings; word, "trust" was used over and over. On Wednesday Brown signed the lease; the burden is now on Galvin until the three schools get the keys – in time for the Fall 2016 semester.

"From Talk to Action – Or, what to do next?" Jan Brodie of I-195 Commission urged no sales tax or corporate tax on projects on I-195 land with uniform tax stabilization agreement for

property taxes for at least 15 years, and a \$10 million innovation fund. She wants the Gov. and Mayor on the road looking for (primarily young) businesses to locate here. And flexibility on the Commission's obligation to pay back the bonds sold to raise \$\$\$ for RIDoT to complete the project. Dan DaPonte, Chair of the Sen. Fin. Comm., felt waiving sales tax had merit. He said RI needs a better way to calculate ROI from historic tax credits and sales tax breaks.

### Quality of Life **S. Steele**

1. B. of Licenses update: On Nov. 13, judge will hear appeal of \$3 Bar License revocation. Kudos to all who've helped us get this far. Federal Hill businesses approached us for support. This is a most important decision. Appeals are in the works for Skar and other operations. **Salisbury:** We had been very successful at cleaning up the JD. They are very grateful for our help: "You show up, speak up and stay involved!"

**Steele:** Board of License and the Dept. of Bus. Regulation seem to be responding to our efforts. Hope the Governor will focus. Thanks to Chair Harris, license renewals are being scrutinized carefully. **Orenstein:** Any commissioner terms ending? **Steele:** two terms end in Jan. We are opposing one strongly. **Orenstein:** Move to formally oppose. 2nd: **McClure.** **Salisbury:** Mayor Taveras tried a lame duck move to reappoint her, but council sent it to committee.

2. **Steele:** We requested a meeting with Sally Lapidus to discuss terrible zoning. Under old zoning, restaurants could have "a little music" – no cover charge, no DJs, no dance floor. **Santurri:** it took just one to break rules, go to 18+ and all the neighbor places had to compete. **Salisbury:** Old licenses are grandfathered. **Brooks:** Ward 9, Ward 4, it's a citywide problem. **Santurri:** Hundreds of places around town and three B of L. enforcement police officers.

3. **Salisbury:** Questions about license renewals/applications of the club above Ego on Richmond (ongoing); Karma: dead; **Santurri:** Anyone know anything about Sidebar? A lot of people don't seem to be getting renewed. **O'Conner:** Lot 401. **Salisbury:** Barbara Thornton, Phoebe Blake and I met with owner Henry Mu. "They're ready to go!" **Thornton:** We had suggested a number of changes, but nothing done. Maybe it's a ploy to sell a permittable?

4. **Steele:** It's a pleasure to work with the police department, from Maj. Verdi on down. **Orenstein:** Academy class? **O'Hara:** 43 new officers, no mass retirements.

5. **McClure:** Universities, 195 Commission, all of us need to recognize that quality night life is a resource. But one or two people can wreck things for everyone. For example, J & W has made a huge investment right at the heart of the night life area.

Infrastructure **Orenstein:** Jan Brodie is distressed about the paving on Chestnut and other district streets. Clifford direction will be flipped to westbound. But change won't occur until all signals are operating and direction signs are in place. Date uncertain.

**Orenstein:** Anything we can do to get people to celebrate something together? Party? **Blake:** Annual Meeting? **Salisbury:** On the day Clifford finally opens, get city to close it for a block party?

Nightlife **Santucci:** Had a great meeting with 14 responsible night club owners and Frank LaTorre – from Olneyville, Federal Hill, Broad and Downtown. They continue to do great things. We'd like to put together a Night-Life Forum. We should take the lead (instead of having the meeting called by Public Safety). We'll need help putting together the invitation list, names of people at Universities, the town, JDA, etc. Basically, things are going great.

Other items **Jennifer Laurelli:** An update on things at the Children's Museum. We bring 170,000 children and caregivers into the Jewelry District annually. 26% come from Massachusetts, 7% from away. We have more than 300 volunteers, work/study participants and great enthusiasm. After major restructuring, we just reopened "Waterways", our most popular exhibit. It explores water in all its forms – solid, liquid, vapor. It's terrific, please come and see it!

With nothing left to be said, a busy meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted Jan 10, 2015. Lewis Dana