

**Jewelry District Association**  
Board Meeting, September 9, 2014  
Brown Department of Continuing Education

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

Pres. **Salisbury** called the meeting to order at 4:05, and asked for the police report.

**Lt. O'Hara** said that the Providence Police hope for added manpower in December with the graduates of the current academy. Noted that while people sleeping rough are not exactly a problem, it tends to mushroom into trouble.

**Lt. O'Connor** of the Brown Police noted that College Hill continues to get worse. The most frequent crime: bike stealing.

**Arthur Salisbury** said that there has been a lot of activity in July & August with more than 20 hearings at the Board of Licenses and the Dept. of Business Regulation. He went to a meeting on Federal Hill and has been sharing JDA's experience with bar control with the business community there.

Locally, Succotash has closed. An application has been made to transfer the license to someone who was involved with a now demolished club at the west end of Point Street. Not sure what kind of license they are seeking. Owner of 95 Chestnut has been approached by owner of the Congress Tavern about opening a 25+ Irish pub in the building's ground floor space.

Chris Tarro of Sienna Restaurant and Sharon Steele have been meeting about the situation on Federal Hill. On July 2nd a number of us attended a hearing at the Board of Licenses. Then on the 16th a hearing at the Dept. of Business Regulation was canceled without notice. The B of L counsel wasn't notified of cancelation either. We threatened to have a sit in. Since then, we've been added to the DBR notification list and have established an e-Mail chain.

The summer continued busy with incidents, license hearings and appeals to the DBR.

1. Hooch (née Karma) went through several hearings, then it was noticed they hadn't notified the abutters, so it was back to ground zero. The B of L license refusal was appealed to the DBR.
2. Club Litt owner told B of L how excited he was about opening his bar. Turned out he had no funding and personally has a number of jobs. License transfer application was denied, then abandoned because the licensed club had been closed for a year.

3. Skarr, a Morrocco operation, had a girl fight incident with conflicting testimony about what “really” happened.
4. At the \$3 Bar, a Morrocco operation next door to Siena Restaurant, an argument inside turned into a deadly assault (with a 2 x 4) outside in the parking lot.
5. DBR was asked to issue a stay of execution of the B of L penalties on Skarr. The hearings will take place on the 17th and 19th and the JDA should have as many members as possible attending.

Perhaps Frank LaTorre and Anthony Santurri would like to add to this?

**Anthony Santurri:** Finnegan’s has apparently been sold. It is reopening with a new, unknown owner. All the same DJs and staff move around from place to place. It doesn’t make sense, by the way for me to go to hearings for bars outside my area. One other point: once the primaries are over, I’ve invited the city council members to come to an evening at the Colosseum to see how a club operates.

**Arthur Salisbury:** We need to keep putting pressure on the bad clubs. **Santurri:** I had a meeting with Commissioner Pare about the security and safety of the Colosseum. He was very supportive.

**Frank LaTorre:** Congratulations on how far you’ve gone toward getting the the DBR to hold meetings at more convenient times and packing the hearing rooms. Great work!

**Sharon Steele:** (announces DBR meeting schedule). On Pontiac Avenue in Cranston... not easy to find.

**Arthur Salisbury:** The owner of the parking lot behind ex-Karma/The Spot applied to the 195 Commission to keep full area. His own survey proved that for years he’s been parking 28 cars on state land.

**Anthony Santurri:** The Colosseum and the other good clubs meet every 6 weeks. It’s hard to say “don’t do something” when “Everybody else is doing it.” Whiskey Republic had an open bar “college night”. Providence Police closed them early. But we need a better communications system for when a place isn’t following the rules.

**Frank LaTorre:** When is the city-wide 3AM discussion? **Someone:** Two or three months.

**Sharon Steele:** We’re talking to people about the 195 land usage. Arthur has done a survey of property usages in the District, existing and proposed residences, offices, number of parking spaces, employees, etc. Really informative. It should be posted on the JDA website. Not incidentally, to get financing for the Garaghy Parking Garage, three projects have to be in the

works on 195 parcels. Also, we found that old board approvals for projects, even temporary ones stay in effect... so 55 Hospital Street, which has been inactive can still start up again.

**Phoebe Blake:** On City Walk, Ron Henderson will be here for three meetings. And the committee is meeting with the designer on the logo next Wednesday morning.

**Ken Orenstein:** Update on the power plant start date: earliest now is October. A three-year project, first the power plant (joint nursing school/Brown admin offices), then parking garage and finally student housing. JWU has announced plans for their engineering & design, and bio project building on parcel 31.

**Jan Brodie:** National Grid is working on some way to provide buffer/screening of their substation. It's right next to a prime riverfront location. A proposal for a hotel on that parcel was rejected by the Commission.

**Ken Orenstein:** Work needs to be done on the bus station/hubs. By December the infrastructure work on the west side will be finished. Paving starts in a week. What about ornamental street lighting? **Jan Brodie:** City street lights, like the ones already there. Nothing fancy. Sorry.

**Arthur Salisbury:** Membership dues have brought in about \$3,000.

On which happy note, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, October 7, 2014, by Lewis Dana