

Jewelry District Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2016

President **Salisbury** called the meeting to order at just about 4:04. As usual, he requested approval of the Minutes posted on the JDA website for the September 13, 2016, meeting (not 2015 as stated in agenda).

Police reports:

Lt. Smith, Providence P.D. indicated that, in general, things remain relatively stable. Isolated incidents, as usual. He also said that the undercover efforts continue in the drive to cut down car break-ins. Lt. O'Connor concurred: no major incidents.

Special guest:

Johnson & Wales **Assoc. Professor Mark Hengen** outlined the project he has developed with the students in his course, *Earth In Peril*. The class will be envisioning ways to bring more green infrastructure and urban nature to the District. The students recently received a briefing from City Forester Doug Still on how to do a survey of the District's street trees -- inventorying the healthy trees and identifying places where trees are missing, sick or damaged. (For more on the project, see the NEWS section of the JDA website).

Committee Updates:

Planning & Zoning: Phoebe Blake

95 & 91 Chestnut A week after our September meeting where Waldorf Capital Management presented their plans for historic 95 Chestnut St., at the I-195 Commission meeting, they presented plans for Parcel 30. This narrow oddly-shaped parcel, adjacent to 95 Chestnut Chestnut Common, will be 6 stories of brick veneer panels and lots of glass with retail and parking on the first floor and 89 one- & two- & 2-bedroom apartments from 750 to 1,000 sf. for \$27 M.

The project architect, Mike Abbott of North East Collaborative, suggested that its design be integrated with 95 Chestnut in some fashion as a way of integrating the old and the new. A so-called Skybridge will connect the 2 bldgs, allowing residents from both to use the amenities of each: the restaurant and outdoor decks. The Developers see efficiencies in building out the two properties at more or less the same time; and we will see 148 residential units added to the JD

Chris Ise, chair of the CITY'S Design Review COMMITTEE, reports this project is in the very early stages of review, and that the developers have been asked to raise the Chestnut Street elevation to 2 or 3 stories to give the Chestnut streetscape more prominence as well as making the Friendship St. main entrance more evident. Both good ideas.

SSL Garage: It appears the South Street Landing Garage screening will not have ornaments after all, but will have random LED sidelights along with pedestrian lighting. Whether this will be enough remains a question.

Garaghy Garage: Chris also reports that the Garaghy garage will have a new design that is more interesting visually both day and night.

44 Hospital Street: Chris Valecca, the architect, called to say he had applied for the Fire Marshall Review, which he estimates will be done in 2 weeks; then he will make a "full press on the Building Permit". Meanwhile, he anticipates the demolition of the existing building in early November. When asked if he would come to the JDA, he said he would call for a meeting.

Missing JD sidewalk trees: Arthur Salsbury, Lew Dana and Doug Still, City Forrester, had been working on a plan to replace the District's missing trees & perhaps adding other landscaping when Doug was contacted by a J&W Environmental Studies Professor interested in doing an ecological survey of the JD including a planting survey and possible funding sources. A fortuitous turn of events.

CITY WALK: We wrote RIDOT Director Peter Alviti asking his support for the Mayor's request to transfer responsibility for design, engineering and construction oversight of CITY WALK from RIDOT to the Planning Department.

Parking Garage: **Salisbury**: Every time we ask Chris Ise at the Planning Dept. about the final design details of the garage, he says, "Wait until it's done."

Quality of Life: Night Club update **Steele**: There's not much news here. No reports of trouble in any of the Clubs in the District recently. As far as the Board of Licenses, nothing has changed. But just wait: As a result of Jeff Pine's final report, Councilman Jo-Ann Ryan's Municipal Operations Committee and the Finance Committee of the City Council are going to hold joint hearings. We are told that public comment will be welcomed.

Infrastructure. **Salisbury**: Clearer posting for the one- and two-way sections of Ship Street has been approved, but the signage remains equivocal at best, non-existent at worst.

Membership **Salisbury**: As of October 8, membership dues totaling \$2,825.00 have been received for the year 2016. A table was set up and manned for the 2nd Providence Flea Saturday. The majority of the attendees were from outside the district, but the resident who expressed interest signed up as an individual member.

Respectfully submitted, Dec 3, 2016, by A.N. Other

