

Jewelry District Association Meeting
Minutes
January 12th, 2016

1. Approval of the December 8th

2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES on web site.

Approved voice vote.

2. **Providence Police Report. Lt. George Stamastakos** (for Lt. Smith). Sgt McKenna will be taking over night detail from Sgt. Paola.

a. On Jan 10th early morning, there was a fight/assault -- someone ejected from the Fatt Squirrel. No one called the police.

b. Early on Friday morning, we had two disorderly arrests outside Ultra.

c. Two people ejected from Ultra on New Year's Day morning.

d. On the 9th, a male victim was robbed at the corner of Hospital & Bassett.

Salisbury: Sharon Steel and I spend three3 days a week at the Board of Licenses and never heard of any of these incidents. **Donovan:** Last Wednesday, a couple people went to the top floor of the Richmond St. garage at 1 am and took all four tires off a car. **Einbeinder:** Cars broken into in the Imperial Knife lot. **Donovan:** At 10 Davol, someone took a laptop out of a car. Rash of car break-ins. **Einbinder:** And an attempt at a break-in at the accounting firm in Imperial K.; alarm scared them off. **Stamastakos:** Nothing gets stolen out of an empty car. Backpacks are an invitation. Up at RI Hospital, kids on bikes -- despite a lookout -- got caught breaking into cars. We got in touch with parents.

3. **Update regarding 195 parcels. Salisbury:**

a. **Parcel 4 Park and Parcel 42.** Commission has hired Goody Clancy to split parcel adjacent to Dyer St. into 3 plots for residential development. No developers are known to have expressed interest. Goody Clancy is also being asked to redo the building guidelines.

b. **The pedestrian bridge** is being redesigned to raise it a foot to meet Coastal Resource Management Comm. regs. Besides that, no work has been done on the bridge. Orenstein, Steele and I had a meeting at RIDoT about the serious delay. Plans were complete a year ago. We asked that it get going so it could open with South St. Landing in spring/summer of 2017. Bridge is a key part linking to the Brown facilities across the river. **Orenstein:** now, because of ADA accessibility issues, they plan to raise the park to meet the bridge's new height. **Steele:** We learned many things in our meeting. Transparency is non-existent. RIPTA bus terminal may not go forward in parking garage. **Question:** What does the extra height for the bridge mean vis a vis a 100-year storm?

c. Consultants have proposed that the re-development area become the **Providence Innovation and Design District.** The presentation cited five cities as examples; Wexford is successfully involved in three of the five.

4. **Committee Updates:**

Planning & Zoning — Blake:

a. **Parcel 42.** Goody Clancy got comments from us in an earlier stage. We proposed breaking up what would have been a single huge structure there.

- b. **44 Hospital Street** Currently being being “Value Engineered” which may not be good; destruction/construction begins in Spring 2016.
- c. **South St. Landing parking garage:** work has begun on the footings/pile driving. One northbound lane of Eddy St. closed.
- d. **City Walk:** Ron Henderson’s L+A Landscape Architects won a major RI Chapter of the AALA honors award fir the planning/design work for City Walk citing its analysis and comprehensive detailing. I’d like to point out that all of Ron’s personal time on City Walk has been *pro bono*.
- e. Last week, grants were announced for 15 high-priority transportation improvement work; City Walk was included.

Orenstein: The Garraghy garage may need to increase in size. Also, the Trolley appears dead. They are looking to see if \$20 million TIP funds for buses. We need a functioning system linking the East Side and the Hospitals to DOWncity and Providence RR station.

Quality of Life — Steele:

- a. **Nightclub Update:** Club Heat closed two days ago. **Santurri:** May not be permanent. Sidebar opened and closed, then reopened as Victor Spoils, closed, reopened again. **Dorr:** Club Heat is for sale for \$95,000. **Steele:** Article in RI Monthly said Fatt Squirrel was turning into an “arcade” bar. Things are uncertain, with Halfway Tree Restaurant sharing the space. **Salisbury:** Talked to arcade promoter; he wants to be in the District... doing his homework.
- b. **Board of Licenses:** For two years we’ve been trying to make the Board of Licenses work better. Tried to get someone to listen. Finally went to the City Council and got an extraordinary response. Chair Aponte organized a sub-committee session, 8 council members attending (a majority), for three hours queried B. of L. members on procedures, etc. We’d like to see them achieve several specific goals:
 - Get the Board administrator to carry out her duties effectively as support for the Board.
 - Ensure that Commissioners are familiar with the laws they are administering.
 - Bring the Board into digital world, make reports, minutes, etc. current and on line.

Salisbury: We see very positive developments. If we’d had timely reports in the past, we’d know what was going on... what “restaurants” are turning into unlicensed nightclubs late at night. **Commissioner Harris:** Those restaurants can destroy neighborhoods. Historically, bad places get their wrists slapped, or judgements over turned by the DBR. The administration is in the dark ages. You should know that enormous credit is owed to Arthur and Sharon for their dedication to making things better. **Santurri:** City Innovation Officer is getting involved. **Salisbury:** She issued iPads to the B of L commissioners. **Harris:** And we’re starting to use them. Issue is no longer technology: it’s input. One portal for everything, but, for example, there have been no minutes since November. **Santurri:** Bureaucratic runarounds keep you from identifying owners. **Steele:** Violation histories not available. **Sibley:** What gives us confidence that the Council will act? **Steele:** Ground swell of people recognizing the impact of lawlessness on neighborhoods; majority of City Council involved. What else is needed? **Harris:** You can write requesting for paperwork. Time sheets for the Board’s inspectors. **Laurelli:** Can we get a template to request reports, minutes, etc.?

Orenstein: Brown and the 195 Commission, two biggest landowners in the District, should be concerned about this. Jan Brodie kept them informed when she was ED of the 195 Commission. **McClure:** It seems to me that Buddy Cianci put all the clubs into this part of town because it was failing. They got “economic development” licenses. And the B of L still feels that by keeping clubs open they’re spurring the economy That perception came from the Mayor’s office and hasn’t changed. **Santurri:** Five bad clubs have been closed and none reopened. We’re a world-class city; good night life is part of that. Also, back then no one cared when the war zone was in the District. Now restaurants turning into clubs are in other people’s backyards, and they’ve noticed.

Infrastructure — Orenstein:

- a. Signage, etc. **Salisbury:** District street signs are chaotic. Barrie Daneker has a meeting with DPW.
- b. **Orenstein:** River walk fencing. Asked the City was responsible for repairs. City guy said it has been assigned to the Parks Dept.
- c. Street Lights. Dan Baudouin has been trying to raise money for decorative lighting. City not doing anything. No OK from Nat’l Grid maintenance to put LEDs into existing decorative fixtures. Cobra heads are all N. Grid.

Membership — Donovan:

- a. 2015 Membership- \$ 3,475.00. 2016 Membership-\$ 100 received as of 1/10/16

Website — Dana, Thompson

Regularly post new things. Of note: updates on major development projects. Take a look!

Night Life — Santurri:

Been meeting with Mayor and Police on:

- a. **Extension of hours to 3 am** (Class N only with more than 250 capacity)
Harris: Mayor’s office doing it on case by case basis. Police are against it. Commissioner Paré is for it. **Santurri:** Need to get everybody together. Originally it was for traffic control.
Stamastakos: Yes, everybody was getting out on the streets at the same time. If someone got arrested, you’d lose a couple cops for the evening.
- b. **Voluntary Police Details:** offer them at lower rate than mandated details.
- c. **Meeting** for Responsible Nightlife Group at City Hall

Meetings:

- HRP: Not scheduled
- Providence Design Review Mtg February 8, 2016 4:45 PM
- 195 Commission Meeting Mon. February 15, 2016 5:00 PM
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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm

Respectfully submitted, 8 February 2016, by Lewis Dana