

Jewelry District Association
Board Meeting November 12, 2013
Brown Department of Continuing Education

Board Members Attending: Arthur Salisbury, President; Phoebe Blake, Tom Donovan, Steven Maiorisi, Ken Orenstein

Arthur Salisbury called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. And asked Lt. O'Connor to give the police report. **O'Connor:** Basically nothing bad to report over the past month. A few issues with homeless begging. Skateboarders, particularly at the Brown Park. Also some car break-ins, almost every time because of something attractive left in plain view. A little night club action.

Salisbury: It appears that the ROI is attempting to become a night club, with an "M" license. **Thomson:** Some rowdiness in the streets the past couple Saturday nights. **John Dorr:** The ROI's trying to do restaurant business early, then switch to club later. The restaurant business is tough right now.

Planning & Zoning Committee. **Blake:**

- **cityWALK:** we've met with two design firms to come up with graphics for a logo and route signage.
- Whiskey Republic, The Hot Club, et al. encroaching on the riverside walkway: Arthur Salisbury has made contact with the city and they are checking it out.
- 44 Hospital Street and Victory Plating, nothing to report.
- Bakery continues to decay; no application for demo permission; nature's doing the work.
- Zoning revisions are concerned with major streets, RIPTA "Bus Rapid Trans".

Orenstein. There's a tech report from Chicago consultants which aims to remove years of patchwork zoning and remove archaic language, definitions and proposes a re-do/modernization. Also, re: parking they're trying to encourage better landscape buffering from the street. The document says in some areas preservation is key; development in others. We feel bars should be clearly defined vs. restaurants. Finally, there needs to be a clearer role for the neighborhood associations. **Salisbury:** Bonny Nickerson will be here at the next meeting and we can ask for clarifications. **Dorr:** So many restaurants morph into clubs. **Orenstein:** Like Paragon on Thayer St. **O'Connor:** Food trucks are a growing issue. Cranston built a special area for them.

Salisbury: We have a new Chair of the Quality of Life Committee: **Sharon Steele.** Still no decision of the Bottle Law. We have a meeting scheduled with Paul McGreevey and the Providence Foundation soon. **Orenstein.** We owe a vote of thanks for the "cherry bomb" Seth Yurdin set off with his council bill to cut pay for the B of L.

Infrastructure. **Orenstein:** It's new every day with road closures. **Salisbury:** Traffic lights replaced at Clifford by stop signs. 116 Chestnut has a chimney collapse from vibration. They tell us they're going to pave Clifford and Friendship from Chestnut to Franklin soon.

Financial Salisbury: Membership billing has brought in over \$3,000. Olin got one reply to the follow-up on-line billing. **Donovan:** Should we do a flyer? **Dana:** Betty Dana volunteered to go knock on doors to sell sponsor memberships.

Website: **Donovan:** should we consider buying a computer? **Thompson: Keep the list and the calendar on the Cloud, so any one of us can get access.** **Orenstein:** With a lot of work, we could get old files onto the Cloud. **Thompson:** We're still getting 1500-1800 hits a week.

Providence PD: Subsequent report on police blotter: Aggressive panhandlers stopping people. Car break-ins around Coro. Caught a heroin addict who will be in the ACI until spring. And watch for a guy drifting around the parking garages. We also caught someone smoking pot inside Karma. **Dorr:** There's talk about extending all bars to 3:00 AM. **Providence PD:** Don't know what will happen if they all get out at once -- back to the old days. Staggered closing really helps us. **Dorr:** Some bars advertise late closing, and patrons leave the bars that don't advertise and go to the ones that do. **Salisbury:** Anthony at the Colosseum collects illegal 3 AM ads. **Dorr:** It's not a level playing field.

195 Construction **Jan Brodie** Exec. Dir. 195 Comm.: **There's a dust issue. Things have been very dry and windy. We're sorry. There's been a call for creative interim uses, especially at critical corners. A possible farmer's market is under discussion. Bill Bomard of DPW has asked about possible snow disposal on the 195 land. Of course, it's full of salt. And it will be in the middle of the prime time for showing the land to potential developers. Any feedback is welcome.** **McClure:** The RI Dept. of Environment says "Don't disturb that land!" meanwhile the construction workers beaver away. **Brodie:** New construction has to comply, but somehow... They are planning to continue work weather permitting. Including paving a first layer on Clifford and Friendship -- which should help the dust issue. **Orenstein:** There was some agreement on patching with Bombard. **Brodie:** Joint e-Mail, Ken?

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lewis D. Dana