

Jewelry District Association
Board Meeting October 13, 2015
Brown Department of Continuing Education

Pres. Salisbury called the meeting to order at 4:04.

Attending, among others, were residents and representatives from: The City of Providence, The Colosseum, I-195 Redevelopment District Commission, Laz Parking, Cushman & Wakefield, Johnson & Wales University, Brown University, The Mirabar, The Providence Children's Museum, 116 Chestnut St., 150 Chestnut St.

Pending arrival of the police representatives, update on Park on Parcel 45:

Steele: The park is back on track and is being pushed by the Governor. And the JDA. We have requested that the Governor order RIDOT to fast track the bridge. There have been several suggestions that the PawSox consider site on Allens Ave. to replace the scrap yards.

Committee Updates:

Planning and Zoning Blake: Before the Paw Sox announced their plans, they asked for a list of sites that would fit their relocation needs, and the JD riverfront park was not on the list the city provided. Meanwhile, other parties took note of our yet-to-be JD park.

In 2014, after contention with neighbors over noise, the Newport Harbor Center sold its Yachting Center waterfront concert venue to Colin Kane (former head of the I-195 Commission). Newport Waterfront Events, the division that organized the shows, is looking elsewhere in the State. In August they held a Reggae Festival at India Point Park. Other sites they have considered include our Jewelry District park.

Meanwhile, Dean Weinberg, CPA, and Yarrow Thorne, founder of the Avenue Concept, which helped organize last Spring's First Providence International Arts Festival, asked "How can you have a jewel of a city park without programming?" They found Red Light Management of Charlottesville, VA, to help them to develop and manage a venue Weinberg describes as "a new City center." Red Light is evaluating the opportunity to see if it fits into the I-195 vision.

CiTY WALK: over the summer, in conjunction with the Planning Department, Providence Foundation, neighborhood groups along the route such as the Fox Point Neighborhood Association and other interested parties such as the Children's Museum, RI Bicycle Association and SWAP, we applied for a \$100,000 grant from the American Planning Association in a program called Plan4Health. If we get it, the money will be used for signage and content, both on the roughly 8-mile route and the website. We hope for the best.

Salisbury: Scott Dumont of CV Wexford is asking for ideas on the long blank wall of the parking garage that will run along Eddy Street. We asked them to create open display windows, but they are reluctant to give up the parking spaces that would entail. The garage will start soon and move fast. To open in April or May. **Steele:** And it's already over subscribed.

Santurri: A coalition on promoting bike usage is looking into traffic/safety issues. Can we invite them to make a presentation?

Police Report **Lt. O'Connor,** Brown Police: We're very much involved in working with the builders at South Street Landing on security issues and resources, because we may be the closest to any incident. As far as current activities go, we've been fortunate in the past months; things have been quiet.

Quality of Life **Steele:** 1st, let me say thanks to Peter McNally and Amber Ilcisko from the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission for attending tonight. As we all know, the 195 land is enormously important to the future of the Jewelry District. **McNally:** we look forward to working with you!

Steele: There seems to be a renaissance of bars at 71 Richmond St., on the second floor. "Henry from the Mirabar" plans to start a club under the "rent-a-license" plan, opening on the 22nd of October. **Dorr:** I have doubts. **Steele:** the Board of Licenses held a retreat that was the best training session in years. Macky McCleary, the DBR Director presented the new face of the DBR saying that well-presented cases will be seriously pursued. **Harris:** We're hoping this means system and procedures upgrades and clearer laws. Also more information should become available on the web.

Salisbury: Very concerned about the former Karma location. Can't imagine that being next to Parcel 28 a club will reappear there. **Steele:** JR's is opening in the old Blount Clam Shack site on the 19th. Sandwiches/dinners, with overnight delivery. They do not have a liquor license. As for the park, kudos to the residents who fought for this. We're pushing hard to get things done by the Spring of 2017 to coincide with the opening of South Street Landing.

Steele: The city admin is introducing a communications tool for internal communications. How do we interface with that? The rest of us use e-Mail. **Batista:** you can still use e-Mail -- that won't change.

Laurelli: The Parks Conservancy has been involved with programing the city parks. A few months ago, Cliff Wood came to a meeting, and, the same way Dan Baudouin and Frank proposed a Downton Improvement District, Wood put forward the same sort of idea for the parks. **Donovan:** For supporting something like that, there's a major contrast between the density downtown and here in the JD. **Santurri:** For 18,000 sq. ft., we pay \$1,900 a year. I'm a small business, and I think it's a real value.

Infrastructure **Salisbury**: Barry Daneker is going after the city to get the street signage straightened out before there is a bad accident. He's had some success. DOT seems to be finished with their work.

Membership **B. Dana**: I don't see any of the people I've called on at the meeting tonight... Olin Thompson put together this brochure and take-one plastic boxes. We put one at Rick's Roadhouse: when it was empty, they threw away the box. Anyone with an idea for where to put more boxes, let me know. **Santurri**: We could put one in the Providence G. The manager there wants to come to a JDA meeting.

Steele: Who's responsible for the planting at the intersection of Ship and Eddy/Dyer? **L. Dana**: The crab grass is magnificent! **Batista**: I'll find out. And to report anything like that, go to Prov Connex; it gets you to the right department. **B. Dana**: It works; they respond.

Website **Thompson**: We had a big increase in hits during the PawSox controversy.

Night Life **Santurri**: Very positive situation. The Responsible Night Club group has had meetings with Mayor Elorza. He has appointed a nightclub liaison at City Hall. And meetings with Aponte, Pare and Clements. There are 12-14 ordinances on nightlife, not all of which are useful for enforcing behavior. The 2014 annual report on crime shows a huge drop. Lt. **O'Connor**: these reports are reviewable on line. **Santurri**: It's time for us to act like a big city. Have great entertainment. Friends said, "Let's go to the roof. Oh, well, there's no music... let's go to East Greenwich." We have to find a way to have outdoor music to 1:30 or 2:00.

Harris: 3 am closing is very challenging. The later you're open, the more appealing it is to out-of-towners. November is renewal month. Annaldo used to auto-renew. Pichardo seems to think we don't need hearings, either. We're trying to make it so the BoL has a formal time for public comment (of course, with limits). **Santurri**: Fake licenses are a constant worry. They're too good. **Harris**: There are mitigating and aggravating circumstances. There are places where everyone in a bar is underage. **O'Connor**: You see out-of-state IDs. Confiscation is key. **Santurri**: I confiscated fakes. City said you can't do that. **Dorr**: Hey, you need to surrender your license to rent bowling shoes.

Salisbury: Please note the next HRP meeting is at 1:30 pm , October 22. Other meetings are listed on the agenda, as well. Next JDA meeting, November 10th. Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted by Lewis D. Dana, 14 April 2015