

Jewelry District Association
Board Meeting October 8, 2013
Brown Department of Continuing Education

Board Members Attending: **Arthur Salisbury, President; Phoebe Blake, Tom Donovan, Richard Jaffe**

Special Guest: Alan Hance, Director, TRI-Lab at Brown

Arthur Salisbury called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. He noted with regret the passing of Board Vice President Maryjane Thompson, noting that until illness prevented it, she had been an enthusiastic leader, industriously working as the Chair of our JDA Quality of Life Committee. He asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

Salisbury introduced the meeting's special guest Alan Hance who gave an overview of TRI-Lab the new initiative of the Swearer Center at Brown University. It has just opened at 10 Davol Square, in the 3,000 sq. ft. space that once housed Hunt Photo.

He explained that TRI stands for Teaching, Research, Impact. Launched in April, TRI-Lab is a new initiative designed to bring undergraduate and graduate students together with faculty and community practitioners. The heart of the TRI Lab program is a year-long seminar in which participants focus on a social issue and seek potential solutions. The 2013-2014 program is looking at ways to foster healthy early childhood development. The program's goal is results that can be put to work in actual practice. For more information, he directed JDA members to the website: brown.edu/go/tri-lab.

In closing, he said that they're happy to be in the Jewelry District and that their space at 10 Davol Square would be available, schedules permitting, for public meetings of upwards of 45 people.

Arthur Salisbury: 44 Hospital Street, no action lately. They were scheduled to present before Design Review Commission, a month or so ago, but did not appear.

Phoebe Blake: Planning & Zoning Committee. We attended 195 Commission meeting in September. Things continue moving along.

Jan Brodie (Exec. Dir. 195 Commission): Information packages for developers will be ready before year end. In the meantime, Interim Uses are back on the table. A number of things are being considered, including: A year-round open food market on Parcel 27 at Richmond and Clifford Streets, a food hub, like one that's being expanding in Boston... a Jewelry Museum, though there's no money.

CityWALK is on the table, too, but there are loose ends on the exact route. For example, it follows the bay, but when it turns up the river it runs into the bars that have blocked the

waterfront decking. West of I-95 and along Elmwood some street and landscaping is being done. For CityWALK as a whole, we need to understand the landscaping and street furniture, as well as time lines, signage – things like a logo, etc.

Phoebe Blake: As for nightclubs, the Nightlife Committee had a recent fact-finding meeting looking at issues about zoning. A Chicago group is consulting on the city-wide rezoning project, but the new zoning we developed last year for the Jewelry District will remain in effect.

Arthur Salisbury: We're still working on the issue of the overthrowing of the bottle-service law by the Department of Business Regulation. Dan Baudoin, Frank La Torre and I met with Richard Licht, Director of the Department of Administration. He said Governor Chafee is upset by the ruling on the bottle law. Licht is setting up a meeting with Director McGreevy of the DBR. Also discussed: moving this out of DBR's hands and going directly to the courts. Also, to update: nothing has been heard about the current case which the city has appealed to the courts.

Jan Brodie: Updating on the 195 corridor work. We've had talks with DoT and the park designers; nothing to report about that. Friendship and Clifford are going to be paved from Chestnut to E. Franklin, though probably not immediately opened for traffic. The paving will definitely help keep the dust down. The estimate is that 20% of the whole project has been completed.

Arthur Salisbury: Membership drive: As of today, the membership billing operation has brought in \$3050.00

Tom Donovan: When do we start on 2014? **Arthur Salisbury:** Sometime after the first of the year, not sure yet. **Lewis Dana:** We owe the people from Cushman & Wakefield a big vote of thanks for their hard work on beating the membership list into shape. **Arthur Salisbury:** Absolutely! They really went to work on this. Thank you!

Arthur Salisbury: On the minutes: Sorry, I said the minutes were on line. But that didn't happen this month. **Lewis Dana:** We'll begin posting them as soon as Olin Thompson and I get together and figure out a few computer details.

Arthur Salisbury: A few upcoming meetings: The Downtown Providence Hospitality Committee will be meeting at 3:00 PM on the 24th at Frank LaTorre's office. The next I-195 Commission meeting is on the 21st at their offices.

And we have a new business in the District: **Synergy**, the health club has opened at 3 Davol Square, in case you haven't noticed their banners along Point St.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lewis D. Dana