

**Jewelry District Association**  
Board Meeting June, 2015  
Brown Department of Continuing Education

**President Salisbury** began the meeting at 4:06 with a request that all present be sure to sign the attendance sheet. Then after self-introductions ‘round the table, he called for the Police Report from **Lt. O’Hara** who announced that he was moving on to a new assignment. He introduced Lt. Smith as his replacement, saying that he really knows Downtown after 10 years service. It should be a seamless transition.

**Lt. Smith:** Pleased to be here! Things are relatively quiet. A few incidents, including a claim of shots fired on Chestnut, but no real evidence/witnesses. The Providence Police are going to start filming events and getting stricter about disorderly conduct. Three people were arrested at Ultra on a recent Saturday.

**Salisbury:** Board of Licenses is bringing Ultra in for multiple counts back in December. The BOL is obviously running behind. On the Pasha Hookah Bar shooting, the BOL had security camera film of the body in the parking lot. And then they dismissed the issue for the club. **Steele:** The police gathered up dozens of spent shells. Neighbors of Pasha testified, some of it heart-rending in their fears and concerns. (Pasha is surrounded by residences.)

**O’Hara:** Cases sometimes get heard so quickly that testimony at the BOL compromises the ongoing criminal investigation. **Brooks:** Hope the video works. We need to control gang action at that location. **O’Hara:** Downtown we found a gun in a party bus — can’t pin that on a club. **Smith:** In crowds it’s pretty hard to prove things. But having a camera on the scene will take some of the instigation/intimidation out of the wise guys’ hands. And as for car thefts... they move around. No pattern.

**Salisbury:** Thank you for the updates. And thanks to Lt. O’Hara. Good luck in your new assignment.

On a very different note, the JDA extends our sincere condolences to the Skeffington family on their great loss.

Sharon Steele and I attended the panel discussion on the stadium at Brown. It covered the same ground that Jim Skeffington covered here with us. **Steele:** They had to open an overflow room. Pros and cons were presented, nothing concluded. **Salisbury:** They are no longer pushing to have the deal wrapped up before the end of the legislative session.

**McClure:** This is the “Salesman’s Choice”: get everyone focused on location, not the issue. In 10 years this will be an old stadium and the novelty will be gone. No one’s considering that soccer is the game of the future for many. Can we broaden the discussion... is this the right spot? The choice is not just yes or no. Victory Plating is there, and ready.

**Brodie:** New Administration and new DoT Director. Pedestrian bridge was to go out to bid and take three-five months to get final contract. Now design is being revised to raise the bridge a foot. Miss 2015 construction start date. 2017 start.

#### Planning & Zoning Committee

**Blake:** Dick Galvin of CV properties and Wexford Science & Tech to build a million-square-foot mixed-use life sciences complex, including research, retail, residential & hospitality uses on Parcels 22 & 25 (from Dyer Street to Richmond between Clifford and Ship).

44 Hospital Street: Before and during the May Downtown Design Review meeting comments were made on this 6-story mixed-use building, relating generally to the banality of the design, which will be, because of its height and location, highly visible for years to come. Continued review Monday, June 15th @ 4:45 p.m., 444 Westminster Street, 1st floor.

Lincoln/Phoenix Parcel 28 project awaits a certified Tax Stabilization Agreement. Meanwhile, I-195 Commission has decided to use the Downtown Design Review Comm. for design review.

City Walk: Yes, it will take years to get the entire 8-mile length clean, safe and informed. Following a Community Meeting and four tours in May, we have a better understanding of how people respond to their surroundings. We have applied for a grant to make relatively low-cost, high-impact improvements to the places where CW crosses either over or under I-95 (read: paint & landscaping). We continue to consider a publicity plan and website. And we are exploring the possibility of a Walk some time in October of the entire route.

**Brodie:** We're hoping everybody at the state and local levels can get together on the tax question. The developers are simply hanging there. Waiting.

**Steele:** Everyone from Major Verdi on down is working on the club issue. Charles Newton has been appointed to the BOL. Juan Pichardo is Vice-Chair. Johanna Harris is shoveling against the tide, to mix a metaphor. We continue to lose at the local level.

**Salisbury:** City Council Chairman Aponte says that two more detectives will be assigned to the woefully understaffed BOL investigative unit.

On membership, the JDA has taken in \$2925 to date.

**Steele:** GoLocal Providence reports lots of positions/petitions on the stadium. With 1,000 signatures a petition can go directly to the City Council for consideration. My group is close to 1,000.

No further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, 14 July 2015 by Lewis D. Dana