

# Jewelry District Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2017

Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm by President Salisbury.

1. Police Report: (**Lt. Luis San Lucas** introduced as the new District Commander.) **San Lucas**: Latest events involve larceny from cars and tire theft. Some arrests made. Essentially, a lookout spots cars in parking lots and garages; car pulls up, guys jump out and steal the tires. **O.**

**Thompson**: Tires stolen across from 150 Chestnut. Surveillance light goes off at 4 am; tires stolen at 4:10 am. **San Lucas**: It's mostly after the attendant leaves for the night. We have 12 officers downtown on weekend nights. **A. Santurri**: Can there be an ordinance that attendants have to stay until lot empties? An extra \$35-40 an hour. **San Lucas**: We're talking with the Law Dept. **Lt. O'Connor**: Things are actually pretty quiet from our standpoint.

2. Major Projects (Concept designs on screen). **Salisbury**: Three big projects are heating up. The Garrahy Court House Parking Garage went to the Downtown Design Review Committee. Major issue, besides the hulking design, is not including the required ground floor retail on the Friendship St. side. Just a long blank wall -- though they can add landscaping under the overhanging upper floors. **Question**: Will it be 24-7 and open to the public at night?

**Salisbury**: (comparing South St. Landing Garage rendering and actual pic): The reality isn't like the rendering. Things changed. This is a concern with the new garage, too. **A. Dahlberg**: If the process can't ensure faithful replication of a proposal, something's wrong. **L. Dana**: Garrahy Garage renderings show a giant "Innovation & Design District Providence" sign on the west end.

**Salisbury**: Wexford Phase 1 slated to begin in August. (On screen) This shows some potential uses for their courtyard. **K. Orenstein**: Interaction with CiTY WALK? **P. Blake**: The southerly passage through the site will be a bikeway. Northerly is for pedestrians. (Discussion of hotel and innovation center ensued: Ugly! So awful! Providence is known for great architecture... not this! If DDRC isn't protecting us, what can we do? PPS and the neighborhood associations need to get together to wield power!)

**Salisbury**: South Street Landing is moving toward opening day. **Donovan**: they are moving major equipment in this week. Stuff that requires complicated installation. No people yet.

**Orenstein**: Garage open? **Voices**: YES!

**Salisbury**: Hotel on the narrow 1A parcel on east side of the river. 52 rooms. Original proposal was a nice, sculptural design. **Santurri**: Right at pedestrian bridge. **S. Steele**: It's on the agenda for the 15th, schematic at best. **Thompson**: That's in the middle of the green area that should be uninterrupted from the end of WaterFire to Point St. **Orenstein**: On the plans since 1994.

Diversionsary interlude as Salisbury switches off computer, sits down on a chair that decides it wants to resist his attentions and retreats precipitously rearward.

Planning & Zoning Blake: South Street Landing came to DDRC with concept for enormous free-standing, illuminated vertical sign. Historic Comm. didn't approve sign on building. Presentation left out numerous details; they were told to return with more info. about fence, landscaping, etc.

**Blake**: Transit Corridor meeting outlined seven routes, one to run along Dyer St. through the District to Kennedy Plaza and on to RR Station. 5-minute intervals. Work in progress.

Quality of Life Steele: Board of Licenses: discussion of the Pine Report on Board of Licenses not scheduled by the City Council. Studied the Administrator's office, interviewed the commissioners, etc. Bad event at a club on Valley St., moved on to a melee at RI Hospital.

Infrastructure Orenstein: Bill Bombard at Traffic Dept. has a new assistant — that may help. Signage is a confused shamble of missing signs and signs in front of more important signs. Street pavement en route to 195 is a mess. As are all District streets (Ed.)

Streets have a few "orphan islands" no one takes care of. The Wickenden St. islands are being maintained by I-195 Comm. Trees look poorly. Amber Ilcisko is looking into it. The Whiskey Rebellion dumpster is back in place. Next step: Councilman Yurdin.

Membership Donovan: New prospects in the District. J&J has 25 people in place at 1 Ship St. Tenants are moving into 95 Chestnut. **Orenstein**: Beautiful renewal invoices! **Thompson**: A lot of gray hair at our meetings. We need a rejuvenation plan. They get 40 "kids" at the Downtown Neighborhood Assoc. **Santurri**: We've been doing "socials" for them; get new restaurants to present. **Thompson**: Betty Dana sent a bunch of recruiting ideas. Any active members from Imperial? **Salisbury**: Can you put a committee together. **Thompson**: OK.

Hospitality Santurri: Floor Host Certification is really booming. Had 45 people at a training session with Police, Fire Marshall. Crowd management training. I'm putting together a club owner's "best practices" handbook.

Other business Thompson: National Grid's Switch Gear Station looks like a bad mausoleum. We need to complain to National Grid. **Salisbury**: And the trees they promised would shield it from the park are all gone.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted 12 June 2017, Lewis D. Dana