

**DRWC**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 9, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on January 9, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom conference pursuant to notice duly given under the By Laws and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

ATTENDING: Jay Goldstein, Bill Hankowsky, Ellen Yin, Obra Kernodle

ALSO ATTENDING: Joe Forkin, Lizzie Woods, Katie Pistik, Larry Bell, Sarah Eberle, Jackie Lai, Jessica Roberts, Karen Thompson, Erika Joy Erb, Tre Rials, Gina DiBiase

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the DRWC October 3, 2025, Executive Committee were approved as submitted.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BUDGET & FINANCE**

Larry Bell described the finances stating that revenue and expenses were down but that DRWC should be within the budget. In response to a question from Jay Goldstein, Mr. Bell stated that the financials being presented was as of November 2025.

Mr. Bell reported that the DRWC pension plan is closed to new employees as of July 2025 and that a matching program in the 403B will be put in place next fiscal year. In response to a question from Jay Goldstein, Larry said that there have not been new hires since the cut-off date of July 1, 2025. Mr. Bell presented a resolution stating that the DRWC retirement plan effective January 1, 1998 and most recently amended and restated effective January 2, 2014 that the Corporation now desires to amend and restate the plan to freeze participation in the plan by closing the plan to employees who are hired on or after July 1, 2025, to clarify those participants who were subject to the benefit limitation and to reflect changes in the law, including provisions of the

SECURE Act of 2019 and 2022. It was further resolved that duly authorized officers of the Corporation shall be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to take such actions to execute such documents and instruments as they, in their sole discretion, deem necessary. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. Bell then explained that the health coverage cost for DRWC employees increased by 20% and said that the Corporation dropped down from the Platinum tier to the Gold tier and that 80% of the cost is covered by DRWC. Jay Goldstein suggested that DRWC introduce the HSA Plan to offset costs and Mr. Bell stated that it was already introduced and that hopefully more employees will participate. Mr. Forkin added that DRWC needs assistance in educating employees on the matter. In response to a question from Mr. Hankowsky, Mr. Forkin said that these changes also include union employees.

### **PENN'S LANDING CAP**

Lizzie Woods presented photos of the progress at Pier 2 and stated that fill is being placed on site, and they are coordinating with the Cap team and the contractor. In response to question from Jay Goldstein, Ms. Woods said that the steel work across I-95 will begin in summer of 2026 and continue over to Columbus Boulevard at the end of 2026, beginning of 2027. Mr. Goldstein suggests planning a celebration to promote the progress and Ms. Woods responded that plans for a celebration are underway for the South Street Bridge. In response to a question from Mr. Hankowsky, Lizzie said that she was uncertain as to when the wires will be connected on the bridge and it will be lit.

### **DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL TO THE BATTERY**

Ms. Woods stated that the environmental review process went well and that the project is now going out to bid and that a resolution will be presented at the January 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting to award the contract. She added that they are hopeful that this portion of the trail will open in April or May of 2026.

### **DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL TO RIVERS CASINO**

Ms. Woods said that the trail changes to sidewalk at Rivers Casino and that it was always meant to run along the river's edge and that the DCED grant funds paid for the design to do this. She then presented a resolution authorizing staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with NV5 for design and permitting services for the Delaware River Trail – Pier 40 to Rivers Casino segment in the approximate amount of \$160,000 and stated that the contract includes 12% minority enterprise participation. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

### **WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR**

Ms. Woods reported that the cold weather slowed the progress and presented recent photos of the site. She said that completion is expected in late spring/early summer 2026. She added that funds from the William Penn Foundation allowed for extra tress to be placed at the site.

### **WATERFRONT RESILIENCY PLAN**

Karen Thompson reported that they are in the final few weeks of planning with Olin and that a presentation will be made at the January 30, 2026 Board of Directors meeting and that they will then proceed with next steps.

### **PENN'S LANDING PARK ENDOWMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Ms. Woods stated that DRWC would like to create an endowment plan for the Penn's Landing Park. In response to a question from Mr. Hankowsky, Lizzie said that they have a tentative goal of \$20 million but that they would like to conduct a feasibility study to confirm the amount. She then presented a resolution authorizing DRWC staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with Schultz and Williams for a Feasibility Study for the Penn's Landing Park Endowment Campaign in the amount of \$75,000.00. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

### **FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

Joe Forkin commended the staff for doing a wonderful job at creating a terrific experience at Winterfest.

### **CHERRY STREET PIER**

Jackie Lai reported that there was a record breaking 22,000 visitors at Winterfest. He then presented pictures from the New Year's Eve celebrations on the waterfront. He added that 54,000 tickets were sold to date and that the rink will remain open until March 2, 2026, and that the Good Skates program is still an attraction at the rink.

Sarah Eberle then described the New Year's Eve celebrations and the successful evening. She said that there are still several events planned such as an Eagles Pep Rally, Latin night, story time and many other activities at Winterfest.

### **WATERFRONT ARTS**

Ms. Eberle said that there were 5 new resident artists and described their work.

### **PHILLY SKATES FREE**

Erika Joy Erb informed the committee that Philly Skates Free is planned for January 31<sup>st</sup>. She then briefly described the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations for America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and said that many events will planned throughout the year.

Erika then presented milestone moments looking ahead for 2026.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

### **ADJOURNMENT**