

DRWC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2023

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. via zoom and in-person at 121 North Columbus Boulevard pursuant to notice duly given under the by-laws and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Attending: Alan Hoffmann, Jay Goldstein, Avi Eden, Mike Hauptman, Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Anne Nadol, Matt Ruben, Donn Scott, Eleanor Sharpe, Bill Wilson, Ellen Yin

Also attending: Joe Forkin, Jodie Milkman, Lizzie Woods, Karen Thompson, Jessica Roberts, Larry Bell, Austin Marsdale, Jasmine Wiggins, Jackie Lai, Sarah Eberle, Chris Dougherty, Mike Barone, Jarreau Freeman, Lavelle Young, Yolanda Young, Gina DiBiase

Public attending: Caitlyn Youngster, Karen Wheatley – Pier 5 Sailing Club

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 27, 2023 DRWC Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting then went into executive session.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joe Forkin presented a resolution authorizing Class B, Skillset Directors, Mike Hauptman, Alan Hoffmann, Obra Kernodle and William Wilson to serve three-year terms expiring October 31, 2026. Also reappointed were Alan Hoffmann, Chair and Secretary and Jay Goldstein, Vice Chair

and Treasurer, to terms expiring October 31, 2024. Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Class B Director, to be reappointed to the Executive Committee with the term expiring October 31, 2024. A motion was made, seconded and the resolution was approved.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Forkin stated that with information that the DRWC staff supplied, an economic impact study was conducted by E-Consult and he distributed to the board. Ms. Woods added that the study will be distributed to the waterfront stakeholders and will be available on the DRWC website. Alan Hoffmann suggested also sharing with potential funders.

Larry Bell stated that the June 30th audit was on-going and that deadlines would be met.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Donn Scott, chair of the committee, requested that Larry Bell report on the committee meeting that was held on October 19th to review the current pension plan. Mr. Bell stated that changes were made and policies were updated.

EOP COMMITTEE

Chair of the Committee, Bill Wilson, requested that Mr. Bell give the report of the committee. Mr. Bell stated that the first quarter had 40% participation with local spending at 70%. Ms. Milkman added that DRWC is tracking opportunities for new business on the waterfront with Cherry Street Pier and other parks. Sarah Eberle added an overview of EOP artists and entertainers and Jackie Lai added an overview with the food vendors. In response to a question from Alan Hoffmann, Mr. Lai said that participation is being tracked by vendors. Mr. Hoffmann suggested tracking by dollars. Donn Scott asked what this would look like over time and Mr. Forkin said that

DRWC doesn't have those estimations at this point. Mr. Scott suggested that tracking be done going forward.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Joe Forkin stated that the Penn's Landing project was discussed during executive session. Ms. Woods showed a time lapse video of the Festival Pier site stating that the project should be completed in mid 2025.

SITE OPERATIONS

Lavelle Young described the security bag checks that are being done and said that the Philadelphia Police Department has a 7-day a week presence on the Landing.

He said that Licenses and Inspections sent reinforcement to assist with illegal vendors. He added that DRWC hosted a successful Navy Week from October 9th to 15th. He added that DRWC invited them to come back in 2026.

Mr. Young said that 6 trees will be replaced on the Race Street Pier. Mr. Forkin added that when the trees were originally purchased, it was known that they would eventually have to be replaced.

Mr. Young said that timing is on-track for the deadline opening of the Blue Cross RiverRink to celebrate its 30th anniversary season. Mr. Young stated that they are currently seeking storage locations for the seasonal parks/rink supplies that are currently being stored under the Great Plaza and in Sea Boxes. Alan Hoffmann suggested the Durst site. Mr. Forkin said that DRWC is currently in discussion with Marty Schiffman and PA Dot.

Lavelle Young reported that the ferry season concluded on September 24th ending on a strong note seeing an 80% increase in ridership over the second half of the season, adding that ridership for the year totaled over 80,000.

PLANNING COMMITTEE & PROJECT REPORTS

PENN'S LANDING PARK

Ms. Woods said that 98% of the construction documents for the Penn's Landing Park should be completed by the end of November and that a RFP for construction management and a RFP for trees for the park will be issued in the near future. In response to a question from Alan Hoffmann, Ms. Woods said that these RFPs would be out by the end of the year.

SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK

Karen Thompson reported that DRWC is working with Hinge Collective on public engagement to ask, after 10 years, "What could be different?" After this session that 450 people participated, it was found that the public wants more events, more food and beverage options and more access to the water. Lizzie Woods added that DRWC is looking to do the same type of public engagement session for the Independence Blue Cross RiverRink.

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL

Chris Dougherty described the progress of the Columbia to Lehigh portion of the trail. He said that an open house was held on October 14th and that there were recommendations for physical improvements and a strong community preference for both a continuous trail and better neighborhood access.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR

Ms. Woods described the progress and said that DRWC is working closely with the City of Philadelphia Streets Department and Office of Transportation Infrastructure and Sustainability to bid the Connector as a city public works project in Fall 2023. She said the overall project will encompass new signals, and a full roadway resurfacing from 4th Street to Columbus Boulevard. She added that work is expected to begin in

Spring 2024 and that DRWC will serve as the overall construction manager of the effort.

SOUTH WETLANDS PARK

Lizzie Woods informed the board that DRWC received \$150,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware Basin Conservation Fund to advance design and permitting work and attain environmental clearances for the South Philadelphia Wetlands Park. She added that as the design work continues, DRWC is seeking funding for the construction through additional NFWF, Congressional appropriations, and the Water Resources Development Act.

GRAFFITI PIER

Karen Thompson said that the concept plan is being updated and that a Make Safe plan is being created by Studio Zewde. She added that DRWC staff is also working with Langan and Studio Zewde to develop a scope for construction drawings for the Make Safe work. Marilyn Jordan Taylor added that the project is looking great.

PROGRAMMING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Jodie Milkman said that this is the 30-year anniversary for the Independence Blue Cross RiverRink (IBCRR) and thanked the staff for the care every year when they install and breakdown the rink as some of the equipment is from year one. She said that DRWC will continue to produce the city's annual New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront with two New Year's Eve fireworks shows, one at 6:00 p.m. and one at Midnight.

Jackie Lai gave an update on parks and attractions. He said that the rink opens for the season on November 24th with timed tickets again this year and cabin rentals. He said that an RFP for food vendors was issued and that the deadline for application submissions just closed. Mr. Lai

said that Spruce Street Harbor Park was now closed for the season and that all park items were stored away.

Mr. Lai said that the Cherry Street Pier attendance was down a bit but that CSP was about to welcome their one millionth visitor to the pier. He added that seasonal winter hours will be scaled back.

PROGRAMMING/WATERFRONT ARTS

Sarah Eberle reported that there is a busy schedule of events planned and described the upcoming exhibitions and markets. She asked the board to save the date for the December 1st tree lighting at IBCRR. Sarah said that the selection process for the next artist cohort in Cherry Street Pier is underway and that all 14 in-house artists expressed that they would like to return for an additional year. She said that the selection process would take place through late November and that new artists would move into the pier in February. Joe Forkin added that Sarah is always seeking other organizations to come in and partner with them.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Barone said that the winter marketing campaign has started, and Jodie added that Independence Blue Cross has been the title sponsor of the rink since its inception, 30 years ago. Jarreau Freeman described the communications plan and Mike added the PR plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was then open to public comment.

Caitlyn Youngster, head of the sailing club located in the Pier 5 marina said that one of their sailboats was stolen and that she was awaiting an incident report from DRWC security. She added that she has seen people jump from inside the Cherry Street Pier into the marina and questioned what could be done about security? Lavelle Young, head of the DRWC security responded that he had heard of the incident. Ms.

Youngster requested that a camera be installed at the end of the pier. Joe Forkin added that DRWC will follow-up on this issue. In response to a question from Ms. Youngster, Mr. Forkin responded that Allan Domb is selling the marina and that she can speak with Eric Cassaway in Mr. Domb's office regarding the sale.

Ms. Youngster added that the 2024 Philadelphia Cup Regatta is being planned for Memorial Day Weekend and would like to meet with DRWC about partnering/planning events. Joe Forkin added that sailing is an important piece of the waterfront and that DRWC would be happy to speak with them about this event.

Alan Hoffmann added that Joe Forkin was named #12 in Philadelphia Magazines 100 most influential people. The board congratulated Mr. Forkin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.