

DRWC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 27, 2023

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. both in-person at DRWC located at 121 North Columbus Boulevard and via Zoom pursuant to notice duly given under the By-Laws and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Attending: Alan Hoffmann, Jay Goldstein, Donn Scott, Matt Ruben, Bill Wilson, Diane Dalto Woosnam, Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Mike Hauptman, Mike DiBerardinis, Anne Nadol, Ellen Yin

Also attending: Joe Forkin, Karen Thompson, Lizzie Woods, Larry Bell, Lavelle Young, Sarah Eberle, Jessica Cornish, Austin Marsdale, Jackie Lai, Jodie Milkman, Jasmine Wiggins, Chris Dougherty, Victoria Crenshaw, Gina DiBiase – Guests from the public: Caitlyn Youngster, Karen Wheatley (local Sailing Club)

MINUTES

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Larry Bell reported that although revenue is down versus what was budgeted, DRWC is trending to meet overall financial goals due to cost savings. He then presented the FY'24 budget and stated that employees will receive a COLA increase. He added that all full-time employees will receive an annual performance review. Larry presented a resolution to adopt the FY'24 Operating budget. A motion was made, seconded and the resolution was approved.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Larry Bell reported for Bill Wilson, Chair of the EOP Committee, stating that the year ending June 30th showed 40% EOP participation. He said that spending is at 20% outside of Philadelphia and 80% in the city. Mr. Bell said that SSHP, Summerfest and Cherry Street Pier host minority vendors, artists and partners and that DRWC is also working to measure business opportunities in addition to spending.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Joe Forkin reported that the Festival Pier site “Rivermark Northern Liberties” is showing amazing progress and informed the board that they can tour the site on August 8th along with the developers. Lizzie Woods added that the PHDC Percent for Art Selection Committee met and chose the public art piece “River Sounding” created by Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan for the public art requirement. The budget for the artwork is \$1.2 million.

In response to a question from Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Ms. Woods explained the selection process. In response to a question from Alan Hoffmann, Lizzie said that the artwork will be illuminated at night. Sarah Eberle explained that the piece is based on the depths of the river and added that the selected piece was also the developer’s choice and favorite.

SITE OPERATIONS

SECURITY

Lavelle Young reported that DRWC created security check-points to search for weapons, etc. at places such as the rink, the bathrooms and the Great Plaza at key times. He said that a safety patrol has been added along with an additional 4 to 6 Philadelphia Police Officers stationed on the waterfront. Lavelle said that over the Independence Day holiday, there were over 90 officers stationed on the waterfront and DRWC provided lunch and hospitality to thank them for their support. In response to a question from Alan Hoffmann, Mr. Young said that the waterfront parks closed at 5:00 p.m. and that the police officers patrolled until Midnight. Jodie Milkman added that visitors were encouraged to go the Parkway for the fireworks and gave kudos to Lavelle and Kofi Smith for creating a good relationship with the Philadelphia Police Department. Matt Ruben added that he was at Penn's Landing over the holiday and said the environment was very comfortable and friendly and felt very safe.

Mr. Young then presented a resolution for the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Philadelphia Security Officers Union authorizing renewal of the agreement with DRWC with an adjustment to the wage schedule and to add Juneteenth as a recognized holiday beginning July 1, 2023. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

FERRY

Mr. Young said that the number of riders greatly increases with concerts in Camden and that this year's schedule has only 22 concerts, which is 8 fewer concerts than last year.

MARINA

Mr. Young reported that the Penn's Landing Marina is at full capacity thanks to the dredging that was completed over the winter months. Mr. Forkin added that Michels did the dredging and said that they will also do the area just south of the Seaport Museum.

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND PROJECT REPORTS

GRAFFITI PIER

Marilyn Jordan Taylor reported on how the project is exciting and unique and discussed how to best bring the community into the project. Marilyn added that now that DRWC has had success in getting several projects on the waterfront moving along or completed, it's time to begin thinking about *what's next*.

PENN'S LANDING PARK

Lizzie Woods stated that construction is underway, and the utility work has started. Ms. Woods then presented a resolution authorizing staff to negotiate a contract with Kieran Timberlake to provide LEED accounting and energy modeling services for the Pavilion Café buildings at Penn's Landing Park in an amount not to exceed \$78,000. A motion was made, seconded and the resolution was approved.

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL

Chris Dougherty reported that DRWC continues to work with stakeholders and other groups to bring the trail to Allegheny Avenue. He added that data was collected through an online survey to poll neighborhood mobility issues in the Riverwards that will inform the alignment of and connections to the future Delaware River Trail improvements. Mr. Dougherty then presented a resolution authorizing DRWC to apply for a grant for the Delaware River Trail extension from Columbia to Lehigh for multimodal improvements in the amount of \$210,000. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR

Ms. Woods said that DRWC has submitted its final set of plans, specifications and estimates to the City Streets Department with approval expected in late summer 2023 and construction due to begin in spring 2024.

FRANKFORD AVENUE CONNECTOR

Chris Dougherty updated the board on the connector and said that the wayfinding bench was installed along with ground-mounted discs. Ms. Woods said that the public response to this was positive.

SOUTH WETLANDS PARK

Chris Dougherty reported that a pre-application meeting was held in May and that an application was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund program for an additional \$200,000 for design. He added that DRWC is also working with the DCNR to reapply to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's America the Beautiful program for two ecological restoration sites on the Delaware River and that if funding is received, it would support construction of the first phase of the Wetlands Park. Joe Fokin added that the project has also received support from Senator Fetterman's office.

GRAFFITI PIER

Karen Thompson said that a meeting with local artists familiar with the Pier was held in May to get early feedback on the Make Safe approaches and to further understand how artists use space. She added that Studio Zewde presented an 8-foot model to the 30 attendees.

PROGRAM & COMMITTEE REPORT

Diane Dalto Woosnam congratulated Ellen Yin on her James Beard award and thanked her for, once again, overseeing the Promenade for its most successful year. Ellen Yin thanked the DRWC team for all of their help in making the event seamless for all of the participating restaurants. Ms. Woosnam recapped the programming this summer and said that the intention of making public art a part of DRWC properties has helped the waterfront to become known as an art center. She thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication.

BLUE CROSS RIVERRINK & SUMMERFEST

Jackie Lai reported that the parks are doing well in spite of the extreme weather challenges. He stated that they will remain open until September 24th and that Cherry Street Pier is open daily along with the Garden restaurant.

He said that the Pixar Putt Putt opened on July 1st and will remain open through October 1st. Jodie Milkman said that this added attraction is doing well and bringing more visitors to the waterfront.

Joe Forkin informed the board that the Penn's Landing Groundbreaking event has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 6th at 9:30.

Mr. Forkin then invited that board to join the DRWC staff for a summer outing at the ballpark for a Phillies game on September 11th at 1:05 in the Bill Giles suite.

He added that the "Bea-Tells" starring former director of Commerce, Jim Cuorato, would be performing on July 29th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was then open to public comment. Caitlyn Youngster and Karen Wheatley, who represent the Liberty Sailing Club in the Pier 5 Marina, introduced themselves and said they were interested in working on opportunities to collaborate with DRWC to bring new members to their club and work on providing more access points to the waterfront. They stated that there would be an open house in the end of August and a Fall Frostbite event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.