

**DRWC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 6, 2025
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on Friday, June 6, 2025 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, Karen Fegely

Also attending: Joe Forkin, Lavelle Young, Lizzie Woods, Jessica Roberts, Sarah Eberle, Jackie Lai, Larry Bell, Karen Thompson, Erika Erb, Tre Rials, Gina DiBiase

Joe Forkin introduced the Acting Director of Commerce and new DRWC Board member, Karen Fegely. She thanked the committee and gave a brief background of her career.

Joe Forkin then introduced Erika Joy Erb, DRWC's new VP of Marketing and Communications. Erika gave a brief background of her career and said that she was excited to be working on the waterfront and that she is looking forward to being a part of the DRWC Team.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Open Session

BUDGET & FINANCE

Larry Bell stated that there were 2 finalists in the search for a new auditor firm for DRWC. He said that a recommendation will be made to the Budget & Finance Committee. He added that the current firm didn't make the short list. Mr. Bell stated that DRWC is waiting for authorized funds from the city

prior to the end of this fiscal year and added that the FY'26 Budget is close to being finalized.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

CAP & PARK

Lizzie Woods reported that the northern and southern end retaining walls are being installed and that Sunday evening the beams will be placed on I-95 and that PennDOT and PECO are coordinating. She said that a lot of progress has been made. Joe Forkin added that work on the bridge structure will cause closures over I-95 southbound from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the next several weeks.

Jay Goldstein suggested that models be placed on-site in public areas to keep the public informed and suggested the possibility of a billboard on I-95.

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL

Lizzie Woods reported on the Northbank Phase 2 segment of the DRT and said that the trail hasn't yet been constructed in that area and that fundraising efforts are ongoing. Ms. Woods then presented a resolution authorizing DRWC to apply for a DCED Grant (Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program) in the amount of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Authority to be used for Delaware River Trail: Northbank Phase 2 – Trail Construction. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR

Ms. Woods updated the committee on the progress being made and showed photos of the work that was done to this point.

SOUTH WETLANDS PARK

Lizzie Woods said that DRWC is optimistic regarding obtaining funding for this project.

POP-UP METRO – PASSENGER RAIL

Ms. Woods described the project and said that there were 2 responses to the RFP and that Pennoni is recommended for the project. She then presented a resolution authorizing a contract with Pennoni Associates for the preliminary engineering and design services for the Waterfront Rail Line in an amount not

to exceed \$600,000 and said that the contract includes 28% WBE and 21% DsBE participation. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

GR4 – RIVERWARDS

Ms. Woods stated that a public meeting will be held the following week and that this would be the third public meeting for the project. She stated that the future, ongoing communications plan was being created.

WATERFRONT RESILIENCY PLAN

Karen Thompson reported that Olin completed the existing conditions work and that this phase will inform the next components of the plan. In response to a question from Bill Hankowsky, Ms. Thompson said that this is being funded by the William Penn Foundation. She also said that they are working with the city to ensure DRWC's plan fits into the City's overall resiliency plan.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Jackie Lai reported that there were 75,000 visitors to the CSP by the end of May which is a 25% increase over last year. He said that due to poor weather, Summerfest showed lower attendance. Mr. Lai reported that the double-decker barge is open at SSHP but that the inclement weather has affected attendance and that the concessions are going in the right direction. Mr. Forkin added that they are waiting for final barge approvals but that this is a great addition to the park.

FERRY

Lavelle Young said that the ferry opened Memorial Day Weekend and that it will be open 7-days per week. He said that the concert season last year contributed to the high attendance and that the ridership numbers should pick-up this summer.

PROGRAMMING & COMMUNICATIONS

Jor Forkin thanked Ellen Yin for her work on the success of The Promenade. He said that the excellent weather made for a beautiful evening on the waterfront and that just over \$292,000 was raised and that next year's goal will be \$300,000.

Sarah Eberle described the events and programs scheduled for Summerfest and said that tonight launches the line-dancing series and that it was also First-Friday at the Cherry Street Pier.

WATERFRONT ARTS

Ms. Eberle reported that the Second Annual Flag exhibition at SSHP opened last weekend. She said that there will be 2 new installations and described them to the committee. One being repurposed hammocks and one being phases of the moon in the quay. Ms. Eberle reported that tonight will kick-off the Philadelphia Treasure Hunt and it will take place entirely along the waterfront from Pier 68 to Pulaski Park and that prizes have been donated by every waterfront partner. Mr. Fokin added that it's very impressive that every single waterfront partner has made a significant donation.

MARKETING & COMMUNICAITONS

Erika Erb thanked the committee and staff for the warm welcome and said that there was a strong opening to the summer on the waterfront with press highlights including publicity in Philly Magazine, Philadelphia Inquirer, Metro-Philly and Fox 29.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was open to public comment. There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned.