

DRWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

JULY 25, 2025

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on Friday, July 25th at 8:00 both in-person and virtually, at 121 North Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania under the By-Laws and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Attending: Avi Eden, Karen Fegely, Jay Goldstein, Bill Hankowsky, Mike Hauptman, Obra Kernodle, John Mondlak, Donn Scott, Angela Val, Bill Wilson, Ellen Yin, Mario Zacharjasz

Also attending: Joe Forkin, Lavelle Young, Sarah Eberle, Jackie Lai, Jessica Roberts, Karen Thompson, Erika Joy Erb, Jasmine Wiggins, Tre Rials, Mike Barone, Katie Pistick

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 25, 2025, DRWC Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION/OPEN SESSION

BUDGET & FINANCE

Larry Bell stated that the Finance Committee met to discuss the FY'26 budget and said that the \$772,697 deficit was due to the loss of parking revenue from the on-site construction. Joe Forkin explained the challenges and presented a resolution authorizing the adoption of the FY'26 operating budget. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. Forkin then presented a resolution authorizing staff to bind commercial insurance coverage for the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the amount to-to-exceed \$1,120,000. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

EOP

Joe Forkin presented the EOP report stating that despite a smaller budget this year, DRWC hit their target with 40% overall inclusion.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Forkin shared photos of Rivermark Waterfront Apartments. In response to a question from Mike Hauptman, he said that the south side of the building will be reserved for green space and that there will be a trail connection on the property. Mr. Goldstein suggested that

a press event should be held and that the public park/space should be included in the announcement.

PENN'S LANDIING CAP

Karen Thompson presented photos of the prograss. In response to a question from Jay Goldstein, Mr. Forkin said that the timing for the steel beams on the northern side over I-95 hasn't been determined yet.

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL

Ms. Thompson stated that the construction documents were completed for the Penn Treaty Park to the Battery segment. Staff also submitted a public outreach grant application from the William Penn Foundation for the Palmer to Cumberland trail segment.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR

Ms. Thomspon shared images of the progress and presented a resolution authorizing DRWC to submit a DCED MTF grant application for the Washington Avenue Connector Phase 4: landscape construction. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

SOUTH WETLANDS

Karen Thompson informed the board that the project is moving along.

POP-UP METRO

Ms. Thompson stated that this is named the Waterfront Rail Line and that a kick-off meeting was held the week prior and that a grant was awarded. She then presented a resolution authorizing DRWC to request a Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant in the amount of \$430,000 for the Department of Community and Economic Development to be used for final design and engineering of a Waterfront Rail Line. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Mr. Mondlak said that the city wants a rail line from 30th Street Station to the stadiums for 2026 but that it's not going to happen and that he is fully committed to this project. Mr. Forkin stated that CSX filed an abandonment for the rails and that another railroad can purchase or take over the rails, but the city would have to file for public use, and this would pause the abandonment for 180 days.

GR 4

Mr. Fokin presented a map of the area and said this would create an opportunity for community monthly parking.

WATERFRONT SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. Thompson said that they are now in Phase 2 of the project and that a workshop was held with Planning staff. A meeting was scheduled with other DRWC staff to provide input on Phase 2.

DATE & RESEARCH

Tre Rials presented a work order system that he and Lavelle Young are currently working on for efficiency. He said that the first step is training that will take place the following week.

STATE OF WATERFRONT REPORT

Mr. Rials said that he and Erika Joy Erb are working on a DRWC Annual Report on the State of the Waterfront.

FERRY

Lavelle Young said that there were 25,700 riders to date which is down from last year due to less concerts in Camden. He added that the season has been extended to October 16th.

PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

Jackie Lai reported that Spruce Street Harbor Park was in its 12th season and faced weather challenges this summer and said that they are working on programs to increase attendance.

SUMMERFEST

Mr. Lai stated that there were 7,000 skaters to date and that today is the Christmas in July celebration.

CHERRY STREET PIER

Jackie Lai said that both visitor and concession sales were up and that there were 114,000 visitors to the pier.

PROGRAMMING & COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Eberle reported that all 3 of the DRWC owned parks were programmed and that a grant was awarded for New

Year's Eve fireworks. Mr. Forkin added that this funding is in addition to support from Visit PA. Avi Eden said that parking and traffic has been a challenge on New Year's Eve. Mr. Forkin agreed and said that DRWC is working on a relationship with Rivers Casino for parking and shuttling visitors to Penn's Landing.

Sarah added that Race Street Pier hosts 3 free yoga classes per week and that the following Friday kicks off Jazz on the Waterfront. Mr. Forkin added that this is the most well-attended event. Sarah stated that this will mark the 30th anniversary of the PECO Multicultural series.

WATERFRONT ARTS

Ms. Eberle shared images of the "Let Freedom Ring" installation that is coming to Cherry Street Pier in 2026 and described upcoming exhibitions. She added that DRWC is submitting for Phase 2 of the Pew Grant.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Erika Joy Erb presented a look back from April to June at the publicity across various platforms. She then presented a look ahead for what's to come in terms of PR such as Rivermark Ribbon cutting and the South Street Bridge, marketing strategy for Winterfest and NY Eve and

much more. In response to a question from Bill Hankowsky, Karen Thomspon said that the South Street Bridge will have programmable colored lighting and that PA DOT would do the programming and that DRWC may be able to program as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comment, the meeting was adjourned.