

DRWC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 25, 2025

A meeting of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation was held on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the former Philadelphia Chart House and via Zoom conference pursuant to notice duly given under the By-Laws and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

Attending: Jay Goldstein, Bill Hankowsky, Avi Eden. Mike Hauptman, Obra Kernodle, John Mondlak, Matt Ruben, Angela Val, Mario Zacharjasz, Ellen Yin, Donn Scott, Mike DiBerardinis, Bill Wilson, Marilyn Jordan Taylor

Also attending: Joe Forkin, Lizzie Woods, Jessica Roberts, Jackie Lai, Mike Barone, Jarreau Freeman, Tre Rials, Sarah Eberle, Katie Pistick, Austin Marsdale, Larry Bell, Jasmine Wiggins, Gina DiBiase

Members of the Public: Area residents, Anna, Sage (preferred not to give last names)

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 31, 2025, DRWC Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
OPEN SESSION

VISIT PHILLY - 2026 PRESENTATION

Angela Val presented the 2025/26 calendar of events in coordination with the City and various other organizations.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL

Larry Bell reported that DRWC is \$40,000 better than budgeted. He said that an RFP was issued in search for a new accounting firm for the yearly audit and that 5 responses were received and that a Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled to review the proposals.

EOP

Bill Wilson asked Larry Bell to present the EOP Committee report to the board. Mr. Bell said that from July 1st to the end of March 2025 there was 39% participation with 83% on the local side. In response to a question from Avi Eden, Mr. Bell said that there was \$12.3 million in discretionary. Tre Rials provided a slide showing that CSP artists were comprised of 37.5% WBE, 37.5% WBE & MBE, 12% MBE, 6.25% DBE and 6.25% other.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Joe Forkin said that Rivermark is at 25% occupancy in both buildings and that Sprouts is due to open early this summer and the public art component is due to be installed then as well.

PLANNING & PROJECT UPDATES

CAP

Lizzie Woods reported that there has been a lot of progress and that the Phase 2 PECO portion is mostly complete. She said that a lot of work has been done on the northern and southern retaining walls.

SOUTH STREET BRIDGE

Ms. Woods reported that the touchdown areas are mostly complete and that the bridge is scheduled to open in Summer 2026. In response to a question from Bill Hankowsky, Ms. Woods said that

the South Street Bridge will have a programmable lighting component.

DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL

Ms. Woods said that the goal is for a construction of the Penn Treaty Park - Battery segment to start is late summer/early fall. Jay Goldstein suggested a “Run” take place in 2026 to promote the trail. In response to a question from John Mondlak, Mr. Forkin said that the trail is open in front of The Battery.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CONNECTOR

Ms. Woods said that construction began on Wednesday and that DRWC and Urban Engineers will host a public meeting on May 1st.

SOUTH WETLANDS

Lizzie Woods reported that DRWC’s consultant team, led by Olin, has submitted the joint permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers and the DEP and she said that DRWC is working on grant applications and that there will be more public engagement to highlight the progress.

POP-UP METRO

Ms. Woods said that an RFP was released for design and engineering services to help with Phase 1 of the project which runs from Race Street to the shopping center in South Philadelphia. Mr. Forkin said that a resolution may be sent for board signatures since this may be needed between board meetings. In response to a question from John Mondlak, Ms. Woods said that the timeline for the project is hopeful and aggressive for next summer. Mr. Forkin shared the idea of bringing a train car to Columbus Boulevard in 2026 to draw public attention to the project. Jay Goldstein suggested that DRWC press for the approval process and Mr. Forkin

said that any help with the City to make them aware that this project is a priority would be helpful.

GR4

Ms. Woods said that they are looking for a better name for the area under I-95 and that once the state gives approval, DRWC will begin with public outreach for help with maintenance and security.

WATERFRONT RESILIENCY

Ms. Woods said that Olin is wrapping up the first phase of the planning process in April that includes data collection, a review of existing related studies, and several interviews with DRWC staff, DRWC Board members, and the City's Office of Sustainability. She said that the findings will be presented later in the spring and then work will begin on the initial recommendations phase. She said that the project is expected to be wrapped up in the Summer 2025.

Angela Val said to elevate the profile of the projects, promoting them while they are being constructed instead of after completion may be helpful. Mr. Forkin agreed and said that public outreach is the best way to keep the public updated and that the Hilton is asking for promotional materials to help to draw their guests to Spruce Street Harbor Park.

DATA & RESEARCH

Tre Rials shared progress on new slide decks staff has developed to better communicate the work of the organization to external stakeholders. These presentations will highlight key metrics and activities of the programming, operations, and marketing departments along with the planning and development projects.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

SAFETY & CLEAN-UP

Lavelle Young stated that they are currently working on getting support from the private owners along the waterfront to participate in the safety and clean-up costs. In response to a question from Jay Goldstein, Mr. Forkin said that Councilman Squilla is working on getting their support along with the support of the City.

PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK

Jackie Lai described the plans for the upcoming season and said that it opens on May 23rd.

BLUE CROSS SUMMERFEST

Mr. Lai described the plans for the opening on Memorial Day weekend.

CHERRY STREET PIER

Mr. Lai said that the pier will have increased hours along with food trucks and new food and beverage operators.

PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

SPRUCE STREET HARBOR PARK

Ms. Eberle said that the park will be programmed Thursdays to Sundays and Joe Forkin added that the jazz series is extremely popular. Sarah said that Summerfest and the Cherry Street Pier have a robust calendar of events for the summer and that on June 28th Pershing's Own will perform. Sarah said that the Race Street Pier will, once again, be home to the Wellness on the Waterfront series and that this will be the 30th year for the PECO Multicultural Series. Mr. Hankowsky suggested inviting the current President of PECO along with their board of directors. He also suggested thanking Mr. Pizzi, Mr. Frick and Mr. Hilferty, all past presidents.

WATERFRONT ARTS

Ms. Eberle said that the flag exhibition will return to SSHP and that there will be an exhibition on Cherry Street Pier with repurposed flags.

Sarah reminded the board the annual Promenade will take place on June 4th and Mr. Forkin added that fund-raising has already begun.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Barone reported that the new press plan was rolling out and that May 12th the advertising campaign will kick off and run until the end of September.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jarreau Freeman reported that there were over 1,000 pieces posted on social media and 19 short videos that were created by Austin Marsdale. She then showed some of those videos. She added that there was over 100K in web traffic.

PR

Mike Barone reported that DRWC contracted a new PR agency, Signature 57, and stated that it was women owned. He said that they are currently working on the announcements for the Double Decker Barge and the 30th Anniversary of the PECO Multicultural Series.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two members of the public who are area residents thanked DRWC for their improvements to the waterfront and asked how they can be more involved in volunteering with the environmental portions of the development along the waterfront.

ADJOURNMENT