

EPABID Board Minutes

April 14, 2020

Present on Zoom Meeting: Adam Leiter, Lee Styer, Pete Spina, Adam Geer, Michael Giangjordano, Councilman Squilla, Anthony Magueri, Julia Grassi, (Minutes prepared by Nancy Melchiore)
Absent: Pam Zenzola

Meeting called to order: 9:11

Approval of Minutes: Michael 1st, Lee 2nd

Financial Updates

Checks from assessments coming in are at \$123k as of last week from 170 properties. Last year at this time, we were at \$149k from 211 properties. Based on the cancellation of events and likely slowing of assessments coming in, Pam, Michael and Adam are going to meet to revise the EPABID budget.

So far there have not been many inquiries about people asking for forgiveness from assessments due to Coronavirus. The BID can be more flexible on timing of payments and issuing liens. The next bill reminder will go out in June with no penalties till July when City Taxes are due.

COVID19 Updates and Discussion

Adam had meetings with public officials including Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon and State Rep Elizabeth Fiedler to bring up business concerns around operations, taxes, grants and loans. BID office is keeping businesses up to date on changing details and availability of loans and grants. Adam is keeping track of what is happening on all fronts, financial, and other business problems.

Adam is taking part in weekly calls that the Commerce Department is hosting with all of the BIDs throughout the city. They share updates of rules, help, and what they are seeing on the ground and operationally.

Many businesses that are considered essential are operating curbside and delivery though it is very challenging. Lee from Fond is doing household staples and ready to go food. Fond is taking orders for food deliveries to Hospitals, Police Stations and first responders.

Other non-essential business are doing online ordering. Many businesses are waiting for loans. Adam spoke to many businesses that are overwhelmed by the various loan and grant applications. SBA EIDL Disaster Loan, PPP Payroll, City has PIDC grants for up to \$5,000 or up to \$25,000. There is also Verizon Grant, Merchant Fund and specific grants for artists, women and minorities. Storefront improvement grants are still going on but may shift focus and process due to construction limitations.

There is a petition going on at the state level to allow Real Estate to be considered essential business in Pa. Different landlords are considering rent issues for business by a one on one basis.

Canceled EPABID events are as follow - Flavors, Craft Beer, Philadelphia Orchestra at fountain, La Festa probably cancelled. Rescheduled events will be QOTA, One Book, and Women of the Avenue event. Car

Show to be determined probably canceled. Most City events were scaled down and most likely masks will be required by end of month. The City will more than likely not allow large events till next year. Maybe September will be an opportunity for something smaller but we will wait and see. We don't want to put pressure on healthcare and negatively impact public health.

Public Relations/Social Media Updates

We started #PassyunkStrong to put out business support information on social media sites, also trying to keep everyone involved let customers know we are still here and we are united. Business are using Venmo, Go-Fund Me for employee support campaigns.

We're keeping updates on our website of who is open, operating in a different way, or accepting donations.

We want to promote current events like Mother Day and Graduations.

Media hits related to COVID Updates in: Inquirer, PhillyBite, PassyunkPost, SouthPhillyReview with more scheduled and items getting pulled from our website "open" list.

Lighting, Parking, Streets, Health, and Safety Updates

Timer on lights was changed to later time, not able to get updates on light colors from China yet but still in process.

Health Department has been around the Avenue checking on take-out and delivery food venues.

Keeping an eye on Graffiti some small tags around Avenue.

There has been an uptick on South Broad of homeless.

We need to abide Social Distancing around Mifflin Triangle and Fountain, putting tape around both locations to discourage lingering/gathering.

PGW cleared debris cleared out of Mifflin Triangle.

There has been an increase in trash on Avenue.

Councilman Squilla thanked Adam for all of the information from BID, making City officials job easier. He thanked everyone, we need to help all the businesses.

River Twice is starting a lawsuit against insurance company for not covering them for business interruption during pandemic. Lee mentioned that Fond may be joining in for class action.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:11

Next Meeting May 12, 2020 9:00 A.M