

## **EPABID Board Minutes**

**June 9, 2020**

**Present on Zoom meeting:** Pam Zenzola, Lee Styer, Michael Giangjordano, Julia Grassi, Pete Spina, Anthony Magueri, Adam Geer, Rachel Street, Steve Lauer, Adam Leiter, (Minutes prepared by Nancy Melchiore)

Meeting called to order 9:05am

**Approval of Minutes:** Anthony, Adam G.

### **Financial Updates**

Adam applied for a \$16,800 PPP forgivable loan to account. The BID has received \$143,000 in total collected assessments for 2020. A reminder letter for assessments is going out in June with info about COVID resources and payment plans. We will hold on filing liens and continue to evaluate the situation through the end of the year for this year's assessments.

### **COVID19 Updates and Discussions**

New business opening are Heavy Metal Hair Salon on 1600 block (former Josie's Salon), Dr. Noah Sideman - Therapist on 1600 block where Green Aisle was, The Utopia Collection in the old Yoga Hive at 1914 EPA, Palo Santo consolidated their stores into the studio space, Eastern Pass Tattoo is renovated and will be opening at 1625 EPA when allowed.

Nesting House closed, Baums Dance closed, CBD Tanning on 1300 block closed, Todays Styles is closing soon, Sate Kampar closed on 1800 block.

We are entering the Yellow Phase and many retailers are opening but some are being more cautious and waiting to see how to proceed operationally. Outdoor dining is open for restaurants who already have existing outside seating permits. We are in communication but waiting for next steps from City for guidelines for opening streets for everyone to do outside seating in expanded ways.

As a collective, all the BID's throughout the City are having weekly meetings with the Commerce Department. They are discussing a pilot program with many pieces including sidewalk closures, hand sanitizer stations, street closing, rerouting Septa, taking over parking spaces in order to create opportunities for expanded outdoor dining and enhanced public social distancing. EPABID has established a working committee with Adam L, Pete Spina, Bryan from PARC, Sara from Occasionette, Shawn from Bing Bing, Pam, and Andrew Stober (community member, PSCA board member, and transit expert) who are all meeting to come up with a plan for outside seating, tables in the street for restaurants, etc.

We will need approval from the City. This initiative would involve moving barricades, towing cars, coordinating with restaurants and the City. They are looking at planning for a period from a Friday through Sunday evening. Lee suggested alternating block closings. Adam responded that his concern was having enough budget to handle this type of initiative for multiple dates and blocks, and the variable of weather impacting some blocks more than others depending on timing.

## **Public relations/Social Media/Other Updates**

Media coverage of the reopening of the farmers market – PhillyVoice, 6ABC  
East Passyunk Avenue included in USA Today 10 most interesting food scenes article  
Avenue spots included in roundups of cocktail to go spots on BillyPenn.com  
A Novel Idea included on NBC10 Open for Business segment  
Tildies Toy Box included in CBS3 small business focus segment  
Avenue included in focus in Inquirer on impact of coronavirus on neighborhoods

The Governor announced a new State Grant with information to follow.

The event for One Book- Native American imagery discussion at Novel Idea is being rescheduled.

BLM event peaceful protest came up 13th Street by Mifflin

Business should use their judgment in taking down boards.

## **Improving Diversity and Inclusion Efforts**

Joncarl Lachman (Noord), Amanda and Randy Rucker (River Twice), and Jackie Starker (Amelie's Bark Shop) joined the board Zoom meeting to discuss their various opinions and grievances. Joncarl expressed disappointment on the progress the BID was making on various projects, such as a new PR person. Joncarl felt we should be more proactive on local social issues. Joncarl expressed concern and frustration about the neighborhood having some racist thinking. Amanda and Randy from River Twice asked how did the BID supports their business? They wondered what direction the BID was moving. Joncarl and Lee feel like the restaurants have checked out because they are not heard and that events and promotions felt stagnant.

Adam pointed out that in addition to ongoing promotions for the business corridor and help with individual businesses, the BID is responsible for the new lighting project, supporting ongoing street cleaning, handling relations with police on safety and security topics, constantly working to address homelessness on Broad Street, managing City Services, and all events.

## **Form working group to develop next steps**

We would like to have a collaboration of retail and restaurants. The issue of the criticism from Sate Kampar was addressed by Adam and he noted he had reached out to various City Services to help them with the water bill problem as well as numerous other requests over the past couple years. We are sorry to see them go, but ultimately the BID must support the business owners and property owners equally.

Adam is continuing to keep tabs on the topic of the Native American imagery. The event at A Novel Idea about the book (There There) with a discussion with tribal representatives will be rescheduled. Adam is regrouping with contacts from the civic associations about language for a plaque or marker.

We are pushing out the public relations and social media RFP soon to see if someone can do a better job. We will work on concrete steps to draw in and include all restaurants. Adam Geer pointed out that he has experienced racism in South Philadelphia and wondered what we as an organization could do. Jackie

Starker said maybe we could not call the police for small problems and offered to share. Maybe we could go to community outreach advocates and have a conversation with local police about alternatives. We need to have lots of creativity and come together in order to address these topics.

Meeting Adjourned 11:35am

**Next Meeting: July 14, 2020 9:00am**