

**Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement Board Meeting Minutes June  
26, 2025**

Meeting called to order

Attendees: Attendees – Janay Green, Ravi Bayanker, Matt Ross, Paul Kimport, Roland Kassis, Greg Root, Michelle Claffey, Marc Collazzo, Scott Nistico, Max Thalheimer, Bianca DiPietro, Caroline Jones, Josh Olivo, Lee Stoetzel, and Lee Jones.

Marc welcomed everybody to the June Fishtown, Kensington area, BID board meeting. Marc reminded everyone that notetakers do not equal or qualify as attendance.

May 2025 Board Meeting Minutes Approved – Janay motioned for approval and Caroline Second.

1. Budget and Financial Report

Total Collections YTD:

BID Assessments Revenue 2020: 4,545.17  
BID Assessment Revenue 2021: 5,198.07  
BID Assessment Revenue 2022: 7,715.03  
BID Assessment Revenue 2023: 12,896.40  
BID Assessment Revenue 2024: 32,752.63  
BID Assessment Revenue 2025: 313,263.91  
Credit for Exemptions -32,651.15

**Total BID Assessment Revenue: 343,720.06**

May Collections:

BID Assessment Revenue 2020: 826.97  
BID Assessment Revenue 2021: 790.31  
BID Assessment Revenue 2022: 1,169.05  
BID Assessment Revenue 2023: 1,663.06  
BID Assessment Revenue 2024: 3,173.36  
BID Assessment Revenue 2025: 29,907.82  
Credit for Exemptions: -4,935.35

## **Total BID Assessment Revenue 32,595.22**

Larger collections coming in \$50,000 and \$40,000 respectively from settlements on lien properties.

Marc responded that some of the differences can be explained by strong collections of assessments from previous years. In addition, the NID has been working to collect the properties that joined the BID through reauthorization. The Executive Team has been aggressively working to contact delinquent property owners, especially for the larger parcels, many of whom committed to pay in full by the end of June 2025.

Financial Report Approved - Paul motioned to approve and Janay seconded.

Janay Opening Statement:

- Mentioned concerns about new problem people gathering at Front & Girard and questioned if the City of Phila has any immediate plans to help resolve the issues.
- Was also curious if the City of Phila has any way to see permits issued and upcoming construction projects.
- Mentioned the Saint will be hosting 4th of July party for third year in a row. Starts at 2pm with facepainting, moon bounce and food.

Marc explained that he has been pushing the city for a unified system for sometime, but it appears to be more difficult.

Janay asked about trash updates on the 2x per week trash collection.

Marc and Rolland met with the city sanitation commissioner, Crystal Jacobs Shipman. Data is being collected on current pilot program. More collection is better than less. Marc also met with sweep collection and stated that they will be issuing warnings for illegal dumping and yet people have still been leaving trash out. Hoping for mandatory containers. City would provide one per unit. No bags can be left on the sidewalk or street. Containers go out the night before and back in the next day after collection. He feels confident after speaking with the Commissioner that Fishtown will part of the recommendation for 2 days Mondays and Fridays.

Paul commented that emptying trash cans should be a personal responsibility of business owners.

Marc explained that he personally reached out to several and also send out letters to businesses.

Notices sent door to door – Mark Johnson of sweep enforcement. He is tracking and writing up tickets for repeat offenders.

Marc has had discussions about a new campaign for keeping Fishtown Clean. Using flyers or posted signs that use some sort of catchy phrase or mascot.

New trash can lids have been ordered.

Bianca complained that certain businesses that are required to have trash cans outside their businesses do not.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

### **Grant Filings:**

The Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement District will be filing a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to create the **“Fishtown District In-Store Microgrant Program”**, which, if funded, will be designed to help retail, food, and creative businesses expand or establish new locations within our geographic parameters. Our goal is to award **up to \$15,000.00 per project**, to be used for purchasing equipment and making interior improvements.

Applicants will need to be stakeholders in good standing & taxes paid.

Grant opens July 1 and probably until the end of August. An email was sent to businesses asking about their interest. The more interest the more we ask for in terms of funding.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

Marc stated that we received a Local Share Account Grant of \$170,000 last year for Front & Girard. We should begin considering equipment that we might want to apply for such as, a golf cart, to get to different parts of the district or sweepers that can be used to clean streets and along the curbs.

Paul said a utility cart seems like a good idea, but has concerns about maintenance on a sweeper.

## **2026 Grant**

Meeting with LiveNation officers to finalize a World Cup event for game watching, soccer tournament and music. Timing for event will be determined by the city plans. Grant encourages short term stays at Archwaym Anna & Beel, Lokal, and Battery Suites.

Bianca asked if there is an artsy component for any of the grants to match Fishtown's vibe.

Marc said not for these grants, but he is always looking.

## **Front & Girard**

Marc approved the plan to Front & Girard. No cost agreement with the City. Waiting on permits. Installation should take 2-3 weeks. Will plan a grand opening event with officials, neighbors, and local invited guests. There will be 3 people manning the booth.

We will be getting the Blue Box Cub from Center City District, which is free and we will need to move and find a place along the corridor for it.

## **The Frankford Avenue Connector**

June 2, 2025 meeting with Port Urbanism. Meeting went well with a few small suggestions. Starting pricing it out with bids as required by grant. Fabrication of letters will take about 10-12 months to complete.

## **Fun things during the summer:**

The 1700 block of N Front Street is an easy to close street without disrupting traffic or busses. So June 28, July 26 and August 23 we will be hosting the Under the El Bazaar. Tables, chairs, food from International, Percy, LMNO and Evil Genius, along with music, family activities, and where people can come out relax and spend the afternoon. Different theme for each one with July possibly being a Pet Event.

## **Wedding Stroll "Fishtown"**

Randi – we currently have about 17 businesses interested in participating with 2-3 locations and showcases for businesses. Max to send out a link to businesses to fill some current holes in the list of participants such as music, invitations, photographers and men's formalwear. Date and times to be finalized after additional meetings.

### **Fishtown District World Cup of Taste**

Discussing ideas to bring people to Fishtown during the Soccer World Cup events. Creating different brackets during a 2 week period with customers voting on the best and selecting a winner.

### **Notable:**

Frankford Avenue Activities Grant – lights at 2400 Frankford Ave were activated with the businesses installing the lights.

Fishtown Neighbors Association – petitioned and got the time to walk across Girard extended.

### **Executive Session to discuss Safety concerns**

After talking about safety issues and we are dealing with the unhoused people in the district and the City's long-term plans.

### **Kensington Derby**

Marc applied for a Corridor Enhancement Grant to fund the Derby which is tentatively scheduled for Oct 25, 2025. Waiting to hear on grant. Expected probably by the end of the week.

Caroline – Fishtown Connect – 3<sup>rd</sup> annual business connect – lots of new members attended. Next meeting is July 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am at the Fishtown Diner.

Motion to adjourn made by Caroline, and Janay seconded.

Motion carried - meeting adjourned at 11:50am.