

## **Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement Board Meeting**

**Minutes March 20, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 12:13pm

Attendees – Janay Green, Ravi Bayanker, Paul Kimport, Henry Siebert, Greg Root, Jeannine Cook, Michelle Claffey, Marc Collazzo, Scott Nistico, Randi Sherwood, and Max Thalheimer.

All attendees introduced themselves to the group at the first in-person meeting of the year at Picnic.

February 2025 Board Meeting Minutes approved – Janay Green motioned for approval and Greg Root second.

### **1. Budget and Financial Report**

a). Balance (as of 2/17/2025): \$133,794.52.

b). BID Assessment Collections to Date (1/1/2025 to 2/17/2025): \$50,139.35.

Live Nation paid \$25,000.00 for the first quarter of its 2025 CDC Tax Credit obligation.

Total Collections YTD:

BID Assessment Revenue 2020: 1,159.13

BID Assessment Revenue 2021: 1,067.13

BID Assessment Revenue 2022: 1,850.37

BID Assessment Revenue 2023: 6,473.46

BID Assessment Revenue 2024: 10,734.82

BID Assessment Revenue 2025: 47,514.16

(Credit for Exemptions): -18,659.72

**Total BID Assessment Revenue 50,139.35**

Marc stated that Lien obligations would now be his responsibility.

Janay Green motioned to approve the financial Report and Kathleen second.

Janay – (Board Chairperson) opening statements –

- Going in the right directions
- Stouts & Snouts went well
- Trolley with Harriett's Bookshop tour doing really well

Marc opening remarks

- Continue with the fun events & ideas throughout the year
- Thank you to Greg Root for allowing us to meet at Picnic
- Looking for 2026 America's Birthday ideas to capitalize on the tourism

**Stouts & Snouts** – recap – idea came from William and Paul at the International & Johnny Brenda's – all restaurants were busy and looking forward to a debrief of the event.

Discussed "restaurant week" but was decided that it is not profitable for the restaurants to offer discounted meals.

**Retail Week** – discussed the upcoming idea for a trolley tour, retail specials, entertainment at the trolley stops with musicians, performers, etc. Goal is to bring new customers to the district while keeping it as simple as possible for the stores to participate. This is something we felt would be completely ours and would be repeated a few times throughout the year.

**Derby Update**- Marc stated that the Fishtown District would be applying for a grant to host the Derby in the fall this year. We have asked Steph Erwin & EKNA to coordinate. The Fishtown District/ Fishtown Co has not made money on these large scale events, and therefore will be looking for them to plan it at no additional out of pocket expense to the District. There will be no outside vendors and street closures and footprint will be smaller. Circle around Martha and York.

Other outdoor festivals and events are being "reimagined" and we are currently working on ideas. Michelle asked about the Feastivale, and it was decided that the Derby and Feastivale would be combined into one event in the fall.

Discussed the viability of the **Food Truck Market** in the future. Overall, it will require a change in legislation to extend the hours of operation.

Paul threw out an idea for Clambake for summer to visit the brick and mortar restaurants - maybe close two blocks to highlight different businesses.

Idea was raised for Martha Street Closure – weekly?

Fishtown First Fridays for retail or more general ideas on a weekend – “FryDays” get Hooked.

#### 2026 Marketing for Tourism Grant Opportunity

- Fishtown District is a designated PA Tourism Area
- World Cup of Soccer and MLB All-Star Game will be held in Philadelphia in 2026
- FIFA has already blocked off dates with LiveNation
- After events drawing people to stay overnight in Fishtown
- Working on ideas for musical performances & hospitality groups
- Grant would be for the end of summer 2026

#### HUD Grant

- Working on an environmental study
- Spending the grant money on the fabrication and general contractor at Frankford and Shackamaxon

More Grant Filings - concerns about some funding could be cut. City grants are smaller and not event driven

#### Front & Girard Update

June fabrication and installation is expected. Scott spoke with Captain Gress of 26<sup>th</sup> District. Our ambassadors will need authoritative support. Expanding cleaning crews. Looking at budget for curb cleaner. Work with FNA on inexpensive ideas like a mural at the intersection.

#### Connector Project with Northern Liberties

We have received a \$55,000 grant to proceed with the project

Frankford to Girard Avenue going to Delaware Avenue activation ideas. Waiting on the I95 project.

Lighting at the 2400 block of Frankford – completed by Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Future plans for Frankford and Lehigh in the planning stages.

#### Corridor Manager – Scott Nistico Update

- Corridor broken into 8 sections.
- Visiting to see businesses and asking “If you could improve one thing in your section what would it be?”
- Girard Avenue businesses said “No one comes down that far when strolling”
- Ambassadors are continuing to work with businesses as needed and patrolling the area
- Cleaning corps expanded the days and up to new Girard section
- Visiting and leaving contact information on how to get in touch with the BID should they need assistance

Idea thrown out about a Welcoming Committee for new businesses – including current board members.

Max Thalheimer – visited new stores to encourage participation in FYND and BID events.

Randi Sherwood - Website to be updated including a Google map feature for zooming in and directions to businesses. Team currently in the process of updating online directory.

List sent by the City Law Department of reauthorization – stating that all votes counted including exempted properties. This information will be valuable to know where we need to do a better job and provide more services.

Janay Green was honored by Rep. Mary Issacson’s office as Women Leading the 175<sup>th</sup> District.

Adjourn

Paul made a motion

Janay second

All approved.