

Fishtown Kensington Area Business Improvement Board Meeting Minutes
Aug 21, 2025

Meeting called to order 10:05am

Attendees: Attendees – Janay Green, Matt Ross, Paul Kimport, Marc Collazzo, Greg Root, Scott Nistico, Max Thalheimer, Kathleen Treude, Bianca DiPietro, Lisa Mazzola, Caroline Jones, Josh Olivo, Jeannine Cook, Lee Stoetzel, Randi Sherwood, Danielle Yankowski.

Marc welcomed everybody to the July Fishtown, Kensington area, BID board meeting..

June 2025 Board Meeting Minutes Approved – Kathy motioned for approval and Lisa Second.

1. Budget and Financial Report

Total Collections YTD:

BID Assessment Revenue 2020: 6,277.21
BID Assessment Revenue 2021: 6,488.59
BID Assessment Revenue 2022: 9,397.35
BID Assessment Revenue 2023: 15,077.43
BID Assessment Revenue 2024: 37,580.06
BID Assessment Revenue 2025: 384,856.71
Credit for Exemptions -32,651.15

Total for BID Assessment Revenue \$427,026.20

June Collections:

BID Assessment Revenue 2020; 1,732.04
BID Assessment Revenue 2021; 1,290.52
BID Assessment Revenue 2022: 1,682.32
BID Assessment Revenue 2023: 2,181.03
BID Assessment Revenue 2024: 4,827.43
BID Assessment Revenue 2025: 71,592.80

Total for BID Assessment Revenue \$83,306.14

Fishtown Co. – current Hyperion Bank balance of \$48,398.15

Matt – No questions about finances, numbers are up.

Lisa – QuickBooks is up to date and looks good.

Randi – planning a 3rd Quarter mailing for outstanding invoices

Financials approved – Lisa motioned and Caroline seconded.

Janay Opening Statement:

Welcomed everyone. Started by asking what's going with any new actions with the assessment revenue. Spoke recently with stakeholder about new business. Heard their concerns and explained that we are there for them. Sunday prior to Labor Day, The Saint is having a giant dance party under the el with food, drink, and a bounce house. She thanked Marc and Max for going out and meeting with businesses, so that they want to come here.

GRANTS

Marc discussed the grants for Front & Girard as part of the master plan.

\$72,150 includes Blue Cube to be installed at Front & Girard.

\$170,000 for the entire intersection

Septa and Ambassadors part of planning and discussions, so we are presenting the revised design from ASI with the Blue Cube and fence fabrication to be installed by October 2025. The structure will have heating and air, and will include a pad lock and opening in the back.

Janay – asked to see what it looks like in person because she felt it seemed large.

Marc – almost same parameters as previously approved. This is a more solid structure.

Matt – said makes sense to have space including column. Line up with the façade to former Dollar Store. Take up more space to prevent people from congregating there.

Marc – the budget includes the other side of the street near The Saint and Rittenhouse Deli. All funds must be spent on this intersection as laid out in the grant request.

Lisa – requested to see the previous design and agreed this one is much better.

Marc – explained a more detailed design would be forthcoming.

Scott – The goal is to keep people moving at this intersection and not congregating. The Ambassadors are keeping stats to see the best hours of operation.

Josh – requested that special attention be given to making sure the sight lines for Ambassadors is good.

Lee – likes the roof coverage so people can't throw trash or get behind the structure.

Jenay – need to be careful about trash, liquids, and fires don't get started behind the structure. Also asked again about a sound system, stated that studies have shown that music keeps people moving. Suggested a possible new grant request specifically for for this.

Connector Update

Marc – getting an environmental study done by HUD. Two Robbers used to be a gas station. Suggested that it shouldn't be an issue. Pricing and updates to design based on neighbors input.

Spring 2026 – Letters take about 10 months – less fabrication
\$750,000 in grant money

Road Closure Barriers

Marc presented a new opportunity for road closure barriers. Could be a problem to move and store. New "Sidewinder" designs looks more like a planter – looking into applying for an LSA statewide. Scheduling a meeting with Streets Department.

Janay – thought is was a cool ide, but questioned where we would use these.

Marc – suggested it should be in a location where we often close the road for events, such as Frankford and Girard to Thompson or Master or 1700 N Front Street, would help save money on events and the cost is \$30,000. ADA compliance and OTIS (Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems) will be included in discussions.

Matt – planters could be more attractive.

Paul – likes this idea and is okay with the design of either, especially if located near Johnny Brenda's.

Went into Executive session to discuss with bicycle couriers congregating in the Rose Garden and harassing people and dogs. After a joint meeting to discuss the issue, Fishtown Neighbors Association (FNA) policy is for Ambassadors to not enter the Rose Garden. Action will be to reach out to businesses to discuss. Safety is our primary concern.

Events

Under the El Bazaar – August 23 from 12 – 6pm

Oktoberfest & Family Fun Day – September 20 from 12 – 6pm for Family area and 8pm for Frankford Hall. Closed Thompson to Master on Frankford. Invited both FNA and Lutheran Settlement House.

Kensington Derby – October 25 – focus on arts and vehicles.

Fishtown Freeze – December 6

Meeting adjourned 11:28am – motioned by Janay and Lisa seconded.

VISION PLAN

Frankford – Trenton – Roundabout, 2400 Block of Martha, 1300 Lee Street, and E Girard all moving along. Working on appraisals and costs.

GRANT FILING

Marc filed the Multimodal Grant on Friday, July 25, 2025 for \$800,000. Included area that FNA refers to as the pollinator garden. Not sure when we will hear as the State Budget has not passed yet.

LSA Connector Grant – waiting on a answer, asked for \$50,000.

FRONT & GIRARD

Off the record for Executive Session

Returned from Executive session after discussing agreement with public property and Septa as it relates to Front & Girard masterplan.

Fabrication of Kiosks at Front & Girard. Blue Cube from 30th Street Station is moving by October 31, 2025. ISA to model Blue Cube for plans.

LSA Grant of \$72,000 pays for the East side and State Grant \$170,000 to complete the project.

Went into Executive Session to discuss the Ambassadors at Front & Girard activation.

FRANKFORD AND SHACKAMAXON

Plaza is planned for early 2026 – early Spring

Letters late summer 2026

Planning more open meetings for neighborhood awareness of plans.

INSTORE GRANT PROGRAM

This is for the microgrant projects for new or existing businesses to do interior updates.

1st step was an expression of interest of which we received 20

Review internally

Bring to the Board for review

Businesses will present their plans, costs, work, and pictures

Grant application due August 31, 2025

This grant includes fixtures, new equipment, painting, & building internally.

Reminder for the expression of interest was resent July 30, 2025.

Thinking \$100,000 ask and grants could be awarded at different levels such as \$5,000 - \$15,000 etc.

STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARED ACCOUNT GRANT – PIDC

Equipment that could assist current team, such as a golf cart for trash collection or sweepers is being explored.

EVENTS

Under the EI Themes – vendors limited and more art focused. Good steady crowds have attended the last two.

August 23, 2025 – End of Summer Blast – Hawaiian shirts, fun games, leis, activities for kids, fruity cocktails and more.

Closed N Front Street from Cecil B Moore to Palmer Street.

Oktoberfest – September 20, 2025 – including all businesses in the footprint from Girard Avenue to Master Street. More family oriented with a kids area and activities.

Derby – 2400 block of Frankford Avenue – small loop around Martha Street and York Street roundabout. Including Halloween costumes, live activations, businesses along the footprint, mud pit and more.

Motion to adjourn made by Caroline, and Paul seconded.

Motion carried - meeting adjourned at 11:55am.