

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
PATCHOGUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
APRIL 14, 2015

PRESENT: Lori Belmonte, Vice President; Jeannie Daal; Trustee Tom Ferb; Joel Furman; Brian Kearns; Anne Marie Monte, Treasurer; John J. Roe III, President; Janice M. Taraskas, Recording Secretary, (by proxy); Harold Trabold; David Vigliotta;

ABSENT: Rick Braile; Michael Kelly; Karen King; James McPeak; Abie Siegel;

GUESTS: David Kennedy, Chamber executive Director; Krystle DiNicola, KLD; Marian DiNicola, KLD; Jim Datri;

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm. The meeting minutes from March 10th were not available for review or consideration.

Treasurer Monte gave the financial report for month ending February 28, 2015 noting details of expenditures. On motion by David Vigliotta, seconded by Joel Furman, the Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Dennis Smith gave the voucher report for March detailing all expenses. There was one charge that did not appear on the original voucher report which totaled \$14,397.19. The additional charge was for \$1,400 from Peter Quatralo for previously approved tree trimming services, bringing the new total to \$15,797.19. On motion by Joel Furman, seconded by Lori Belmonte the amended voucher report was unanimously approved.

Krystle DiNicola spoke about the BID web site stating that hits on the site were trending up now averaging 200-300 per week, but still has a long way to go. The Chamber averages 1200 to 1500 per week. The blog is doing well and creates traffic from other media sources like Facebook to the BID web site.

In the future Krystle would like to highlight business and happenings in each quadrant as a blog making it more interesting for constituents in all parts of the village. Google rules are going to change on April 21st in as much as how their search engine categorizes and lines up sites during a search.

The business directory to be displayed on the site is almost complete with more to come on that at the next meeting. A new category listing office space for rent has been created on our “vacancies” page.

Trustee Ferb stated that a Public hearing was scheduled for the May 11th board meeting to discuss a possible ban on single use plastic bags. The public should attend or send e-mails voicing their opinions on this.

Trustee Ferb noted that at the April 13th Village Board meeting, Quennell, Rothschild had been approved as landscape architects for the Village Parks Project at a cost of \$90,000, and VHB had been approved as the engineering firm for the project at a cost of \$10,000.

Roadwork is scheduled to begin shortly. South Ocean Ave. from the railroad tracks to Laurel is slated as one of the first to begin, but many road resurfacing projects are in the plan. The Village CDA has providing funding to improve 20 crosswalks throughout the village and make them ADA compliant. This work has begun. The crosswalk in front of the Theatre / Library on East Main is going to be designed and painted by local artists as a themed scene and not just the usual brick grid. At that time the lighted crosswalk provided by the BID several years ago will be installed.

The Village budget was passed for fiscal 2015/2016 with a 2.71% increase which did pierce the NY State sanctioned tax cap. The village budget is 14 million dollars and the “Worker’s Compensation” portion of the budget increased by \$100,000. There is \$18 million in grant money available to hook-up the southern portion of the village by the bay to the sewer system.

It was asked by Joel Furman if the 3 parking spaces on West Main would be put back. Although not known for certain, it's unlikely given the way the garden area/ traffic calming structure on the north side of West Main protrudes narrowing that portion of the street.

Conversation turned to the potential future ban on single use bags. There should be a long "break-in" period if this were to become law as some merchants buy these bags in quantity and in some cases have stockpiled a few years supply.

Jim Datri stated that merchants in the village are in favor of banning these bags but fear that a ban in the village would create an unlevel playing field. If such a ban doesn't exist right outside village limits, this could induce consumers to shop the competition where this ban doesn't exist. It was stated that 90% of these bags littering the village come from outside the village. Conversation ensued.

David Kennedy started the Chamber report stating that he had just attended a very successful Business to Business trade show at the Brooklyn Marriott. Many had heard of and were interested in Patchogue Village.

Important upcoming Chamber events included;

4/18 – a ribbon cutting at Sachem Dental & Eye Care Group 2-4 pm 38 Oak St

4/22 – beautification fundraiser @ Harbor Crab, lunch & dinner seating

4/28 – general membership meeting @ St. Joes, Lee Zeldin guest speaker 8 am.

4/29 – Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce Coalition Dinner @ West Lake Inn 6pm
James Skidmore is being honored. Raffles are needed for Chamber basket.

5/04 – begins the First National Small Business Week. Different seminars will be held each day at Plaza Cinema with seating limited to 60 persons. The list of seminars is posted on the Chamber web site. There is also a "save your receipt" raffle taking place this week at participating retailers

The restaurant committee is starting a "Commercial Improvement Fund" which will be used to run restaurant promotions, as well as, compensating some damages that may occur in the downtown area attributable to a restaurant.

Dennis Smith stated that the surveillance camera progress is at a temporary standstill while trying to determine whether there is electricity on the pole at the Four Corners and to finalize an agreement with the owner of 22 West Main to place a camera on the rear of that building covering the Church St. parking lot.

There is a Sunday Farmers Market planned for this summer running from the beginning of June to the beginning of November each Sunday from 8 am to 1 pm. It will take place on West Main St. from Ocean Avenue to the BOA driveways. It will be run by the Long Island Grower's Market, the same people who run the Friday morning market. There will not only be fresh fruits and vegetables available, but food related vendors are being invited also. Local retail and vendors can participate by contacting the LI Growers Market.

Joel Furman questioned a possible negative impact to merchants located where the market will be. It was noted that most business in the area are closed on Sunday morning. For the few that might be open, the market will attract potential customers for their retail businesses and there will still be plenty of parking in the parking lots. Local retailers can join in if wanted by displaying merchandise on the sidewalk in front of their establishments. Patrons could be dropped off on Ocean Avenue and there are no Churches on this block.

The restaurant listings for the Tourist Kiosk Maps have been updated and given to Sign-A-Rama to create 3 new listing boards. The third (additional) board is to be placed in the Theatre Walkway. The Village CDA Office has money to paint the part of the Theatre wall where this kiosk is to be located. The third kiosk is to be placed here with a themed mural possibly added at a later date.

The 51 American Flag Banners previously ordered by the BID Board have been delivered and are at the DPW yard. They will be deployed before Memorial Day in the downtown business district with the traditional American Flags at DPW.

As previously mentioned Quennell Rothschild (QR) and VHB have been appointed by the Village Board to be the Landscape Architect and Engineering firm, respectfully, working on the Parks and Shoreline Improvement initiative.

A walk through of all assets and a meeting was staged on April 9th with these two firms and village officials. It was helpful to all parties to get a better understanding of the parks and shoreline, what currently exists there, what could be problematic and what the possibilities might be going forward.

The meeting helped all parties to become better acquainted and set guidelines for procedures going forward. We received a sample questionnaire from QR to create and tailor a survey to fit our parks system. When completed, this survey will be distributed to all Village of Patchogue residents as part of the Department of Recreation's Summer Guide. Constituent feedback will help to formulate a plan for improving our parks and shoreline.

Dennis Smith read a short letter to the Board from PTPA Executive Director John Ashline explaining how BID supporting funds would be used and also thanking the BID for their support.

Dennis Smith finished his report with upcoming important dates for the BID. Annual Meeting Mailing – May 19th; Annual Meeting – June 23rd; Annual BID report the Village Board; June 22nd;

Quadrant Reports:

Joel Furman stated that City Swag had a recent shoplifting incident, with the perpetrator being apprehended by the police in short order.

Brian Kearns reported that the Blessing of the Fleet in May will kick off the calendar of summer events planned for the river this year.

David Vigliotta reported that Paul's Carpet on West Main Street has moved out, and with the exception of one parcel, there is a huge expanse of vacant land from Atlantic Avenue going west on the south side of West Main St. This would be a prime spot for future development.

Conversation turned to a Riverwalk project, something that has been talked about for years now. Some owners are agreeable to a pathway with some kind of easement agreement, while others are reluctant to share what would be prime real estate right next to the river. The 40 foot Paris Arts parcel would present a problem for a continuous run.

President Roe told the Board to consider nominees for our next meeting to be put on the ballot. Dennis Smith will ask existing Board Members who are up for re-election of their intentions to serve another term on the Board.

Officers for the 2015/2016 year also have to be considered. President Roe expressed that he would not be returning to the Board in an official capacity. Discussion ensued. Dennis Smith stated that in a conversation that he had with Janice Taraskas, she expressed an interest in changing executive positions and would be amenable to being considered for President.

President Roe urged the Board to canvass for qualified people in the Village Business Community to be considered for board membership and to be prepared to discuss this at May's Board meeting, when an official slate of nominees has to be presented for our Annual Meeting mailing.

David Vigliotta gave an update on this season's beautification contracts. Keith's Landscaping will do the garden maintenance again this year after a very successful year last year. The cost of garden maintenance is \$12,500 this year, which is the same as last year, but will be payable over a nine (9) month period as opposed to the usual six (6) months.

Fantastic Gardens, the only returned price quote, will supply 150 - 14 inch baskets at \$40 each for a total of \$6,000. The total number has been reduced from last year as we have lost some display opportunities and a greater concentration of efforts will be put into keeping the baskets looking beautiful for the entire season.

Mr. Vigliotta pointed out that while it was the consensus of the Board to award the contract to fantastic Gardens at the February meeting, a formal vote to do so was never taken.

On motion by David Vigliotta, being seconded by Lori Belmont, the Board unanimously decided to formally give the contract for the 2015 Flowering Hanging Basket Program to Fantastic Gardens.

At this time, President Roe brought the Board into Executive session.

After approximately ten minutes the Board returned from Executive Session to the regular meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss;

On motion by Lori Belmonte, seconded by Harold Trabold the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis A. Smith
Executive Director