

Toms River Business Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2022; 8:00 a.m.
(Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom)

MINUTES

In attendance: Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso, Bill Beining, MaryJo Buchanan, Lisa Cifaretto, Tom Forgione, Dean Gresek, Mike Hovance, Georgette Kyriacou, Sandra Lazzaro, Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci, Tony Palmucci, Dave Roberts, Bob Shea, Danielle Szczypinski and Staff: Mairin Bellack, Kim Dippolito, Arleen Read and Liz Thomson.
Guests: Rick Norman Not present: Phil Brilliant, Gabe Gillen, Lee Pelton, John Brown, Danielle Norcross and Pam Piner.

- Called to order at 8:00 a.m.
- Introductions & Announcements: M. Bellack reported that A. Read will be coming in five days a week and will work in the afternoons in the Welcome Center.
- Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by T. Forgione and second by B. Beining. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- Treasurer's Report (L. Pelton): No report
- Committee Reports
- Cultural Committee (L. Cifaretto) L. Cifaretto reported that she has spoken to The Village Florist about purchasing carnations for Mother's Day and working to get a price for all of the businesses to hand them out to their customers. TRAC has been working of the banners for Field of Dreams. They will be put up along the walking path. The ribbon cutting for Field of Dreams is April 30, 2022. L. Cifaretto thanked the Toms River Seaport Society for letting TRAC use their space for the painting of the banners. There will be an Ocean County Senior Art Exhibit in The Incubator June 4-15. L. Cifaretto will be reaching out to local businesses for food donations for the closing ceremonies. The winner will advance to the state competition.
- Design (B. Beining)- B. Beining reported there is no update on the backyard area. The downtown signs will be looked at for refurbishing.
- Economic Restructuring/Land Use-
- Finance (L. Pelton) – M. Bellack reported that she has been meeting with M&T Bank and other banks for possible low interest rate loans for the businesses. She has also met with Prudential Financial. Both businesses are interested in participating in our events. The Capodagli Properties are giving a \$16,000 to sponsor events and Downs Ford has committed to \$25,000 for Downtown Night Out and Cruisin Downtown.

- Organization (D. Szczypinski)- D. Szczypinski reported that the Resident Committee did not meet last month. They have decided to meet quarterly going forward.
- Promotions (Tom Forgione)- T. Forgione reminded the board about the Spring Festival on Saturday, 1pm-8pm. They had a meeting with the shops in The Incubator and will plan on making a separate website for the shops so they will get more online traffic. K. Dippolito gave an update on the Spring Festival. There will be vendors and live music from 3pm-8pm. Vendor spaces were sold to offset the cost of the police. The other upcoming events are on our website and Facebook page. Please like and share the posts.
- Colleague Reports:

Township (Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso and D. Roberts)- Mayor Hill gave an update on the VA project. He also shared that he had toured the corporate headquarters of Ocean First Bank. They will be having an official ribbon cutting in June. S. Lazarro shared that Field of Dreams will be having their opening celebration on April 30. The Mayor thanked The BID for the successful Irish Festival. Small street festivals are a great addition to the downtown. Mayor Hill informed the board that the paving of Water Street will take place over the summer. K. Dippolito shared that Jane Kunka from Suez Water has a copy of our downtown events so they are aware of when Washington Street will be used during the summer for events.

Parking Authority (P. Piner)- B. Beining reported that The Parking Authority is operating at 47% of pre-covid times. They are meeting with the DOT and NJ Transit about the Park and Ride. The parking meters all need to be changed out to be updated to 5G.

County (S. Lazarro) – S. Lazarro reported that the apron at Miller Airport is starting and there will be no aviation disruption. The tourism season has started already. Rentals are booked and it seems like it will be a busy season. The Ocean County Tourism is unveiling their new website today. It is more user friendly. She encouraged businesses to post their events. Should they have any questions they have a full time staff member handling their social media. They also have Growth in Ocean County website. This is a website to help businesses find out about grants and how to start a business etc.

Library (Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci)- The library is offering in person, indoor programming. The in person teen volunteer program is starting up again. There is a Courage to Remember- Simon Wiesenthal exhibit taking place.

Chamber of Commerce (D. Norcross)- No report

Old Business: M. Bellack again highlighted the upcoming events. She shared that the Toms River Police Department is holding a social media seminar and the first amendment that she and T. Forgione will attend.

New Business: D. Roberts gave updates on The Hidden History Trail. There will be a ribbon cutting 5/13/22. There will be a public hearing on removing Robbins Parkway lot from the open space roster. The sign will be going up soon for the VA site. The owners of the Sea Court Pavilion are coming up with a plan of how it will interconnect with the VA complex. The upper Iron Street lot concept plans are being finalized. The building will be similar to the Capodagli Property complex in Rahway. It will be a brownstone look for the apartments. The residents and the Mayors Advisory Council will meet to have the residents more informed about the project earlier in the process. M. Bellack brought up the issue of the TRAC mural located on the retaining wall could be displaced by the project. S. Lazarro shared that on Monday, April 11 Jeff Vasser, State of New Jersey Executive Director of Travel and Tourism is coming to OC Tourism to speak.

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by B. Beining and second by L. Cifaretto. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.