

Toms River Business Development Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022; 8:00 a.m.  
(Meeting conducted via Zoom due to COVID-19)

**MINUTES**

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

- Called to order at 8:02 a.m.
- Introductions & Announcements: M. Bellack reported that we have gotten the new computer for K. Dippolito.
- Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by B. Beining and second by M. Buchanan. The minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's Report (L. Pelton): No report
- Committee Reports
- Cultural Committee (L. Cifretto) L. Cifretto reported that they have started classes this week in partnership with Ocean Partnership for Children highlighting mental health and wellness. They will be having nine classes. TRAC will also be having classes for the foster care system as well as the Lacey Home School Group. They will be working with the Toms River Seaport for an event in April.
- Design (B. Beining)- B. Beining reported that all the snowflakes have been taken down. The landscaping in the back of the building is on hold until we hear from the landscaper.
- Economic Restructuring/Land Use- Mayor Hill gave an update on the issues that have arisen from the revaluation of the township. He shared that this was not something that the township wanted to do but it was mandated by the state Attorney General as well as the Ocean County Board of Taxation. Discussion ensued regarding the tax revaluation. The mayor will be holding information sessions, town wide, to address the concerns. The Tax Assessor and council members will be present. They will be holding one at the Senior Center later this week.

D. Roberts gave an update on the VA Project. They have had conversations with the owner of the Sea Court Pavilion and they are aware that they are looking to re-locate the Post Office. Regarding the downtown road construction and the bridge construction these projects will be taking place between 2023-2025. There will be a lot of disruption during the road construction to the downtown area. The Capodagli project

was discussed. Retaining public parking is a focus of the Iron Street project. Height of that project is also a priority.

- Finance (L. Pelton) – M. Bellack reported that the Suez and NJ Natural Gas sponsorships have been received. She will be meeting with Downs Ford about sponsoring Downtown Night Out and Cruisin Downtown again this year. If they are not interested in Downtown Night Out she has another sponsor interested but wants to give Downs Ford first right of refusal.
- Organization (D. Szczypinski)- D. Szczypinski reported that the Resident Committee met last Thursday and is putting together a Winter Wonderland Committee. The next meeting will take place on March 24, 2022 at 6:30pm. M. Bellack shared that for the Main Street Designation, all committees will need a sign in sheet and minutes taken. M. Bellack shared that A. Read will be the point person for all the Main Street Designation information.
- Promotions (Tom Forgione)- T. Forgione reported that SCORE is operating again and is talking about doing a business expo event. K. Dippolito reminded the board about The Irish Festival taking place on Saturday, March 5 from 1pm-8pm downtown. This event came from Battle River Brewery and Garden State Distillery. All the restaurants are participating, and the fire company will be out on the street cooking. All the other events are up on our website and Facebook. Please share our Facebook posts as it really makes a difference.
- Colleague Reports:
  - Township (Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso and D. Roberts)- No further report
  - Parking Authority (P. Piner)- B. Beining reported that The Parking Authority has been having constructive conversations with NJ Transit. Things are moving in a positive direction.
  - County (T. Agliata, N. Leaf) – No report
  - Library (Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci)- No report.
  - Chamber of Commerce (D. Norcross)- P. Brilliant shared that the chamber has reached 400 members. They will be closing out their magazine opportunity so any interested businesses should reach out as soon as possible. M. Bellack thanked The Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce for the “Shark Tank” they held at The Business Academy at Toms River High School South. It was a wonderful event. All of the 21 academy students did an excellent job. There will be four students who receive scholarships.

Old Business: None

New Business: M. Buchanan shared that Ocean Partnership for Children is excited to be partnering with TRAC. There will be a showing of their participants artwork in May. Ocean Partnership for Children is returning all their employees back to the office as of March 1. This will bring back all of their 120 employees to downtown. They also have in person connections each Wednesday evening as

well as other groups. M. Buchanan shared information about a lump sum grant they have received to be given to other non-profits who work for youth with challenges in our community. All of the information can be found at their website [oceanpartnership.org](http://oceanpartnership.org).

B. Shea asked about the liquor licenses for the downtown area. He suggested that M. Bellack set up a meeting with Senator Singer and Senator Holzapfel to discuss having a license for the BID area in conjunction with the township.

D. Roberts added that Councilman Kopp and Councilman Lotano are heading up the township façade grant program. There is a small business committee meeting on March 15, 2022. Details of this were discussed. M. Bellack will be attending the meeting.

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by B. Beining and second by M. Hovance. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 am.