

Toms River Business Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2022; 8:00 a.m.
(Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom)

MINUTES

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

- Called to order at 8:06 a.m.
- Introductions & Announcements: M. Bellack reported that there will be a ribbon cutting tonight at Safu, the new sushi restaurant, at 6:00pm. They will be opening for lunch and dinner going forward
- Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by J. Brown and second by B. Beining. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- Committee Reports
- Cultural Committee (L. Cifaretto) M. Bellack reported that TRAC is continuing to work with Make a Wish Foundation.
- Design (B. Beining)- B. Beining reported that there is a Design Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2022. If anyone has any ideas please reach out to him, Liz or Kim. The committee is looking to purchase a new type of garbage can this year to see how well they work.
- Economic Restructuring/Land Use (B. Shea) – No report.
- Finance (L. Pelton) – M. Bellack reported that the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Grant is due Monday. This coming year the maximum funds to be received will only be \$5,000 when last year it was \$7,500. To make up the difference, M. Bellack will be looking for other sponsors for The Harvest Arts Festival.
- Organization (D. Szczypinski)- D. Szczypinski reported that the next Resident Committee is now meeting quarterly. Their next meeting will take place on 9/27/22 at 6:00pm.
- Promotions (Tom Forgione)- K. Dippolito is getting ready for The Comfort Food Festival on September 17, 12:00pm-6pm. K. Dippolito encouraged the board to like and share our information on social media. As of today, the street is full with vendors. The same is true about The Harvest Arts Festival. The Scarecrow Walk will be put up on the website. The Farmer’s Market continues through the month of October. K.

Dippolito encouraged everyone to support the market as well as Downtown Night Out.

- Colleague Reports:

Township (Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso and D. Roberts)- Mayor Hill reported that he is attending the State Planning Commission today regarding the Caudina project. He expects the changes to the map to be approved.

D. Roberts reported that the township is working on a proposal for the USPS for them to potentially move their facility to the Hooper/Caudina area. Should that not work out, other ideas are being discussed. They did receive the appraisal for TR27 (Upper Iron Street Lot) and the developer has agreed to pay the amount of the appraisal. The proposal for this project will first be rolled out to The BID Resident Committee. The Robbins Parkway project was discussed. The concepts are in the preliminary stages as parking is a focus. The township has yet to hear from Green Acres regarding the removal of the parking lot at Robbins Parkway from the Rosi List.

Parking Authority (P. Piner)- B. Beining reported that everything at The Parking Authority is moving forward/

County (S. Lazarro) – No report

Library (Rebecca Leopold-Bunucci)- K. McKnight reported that the in person and online volunteers have been excellent. The Summer Read has been completed. There were 1,246 children who completed the challenge, over 35,000 books read. The adults had 3,339 participated, 2,062 completed the challenge with 47,000 books read. They are having the Community Training Center at all of the branches that will focus on what parents should look for in their homes regarding drugs and teens. These will take place in October and November. Thomas Belton author of Cancer Alley will be doing a presentation on September 12, 2022. This was made possible with a state of New Jersey grant.

Chamber of Commerce (M. Papanikolas)- No report

Old Business: M. Bellack encouraged the board to attend Downtown Night Out. Friday nights continue to be busy but Saturday is not as busy for the businesses.

New Business: M. Buchanan informed the board that Ocean Partnership for Children will be having a staff development day on September 13, 2022. There will be 130 employees downtown and they will be going on a scavenger hunt. She thanked M. Bellack and D. Roberts in the help they gave her with permits. She asked the board to spread the word so that the businesses know who the people are wandering around downtown.

M. Bellack asked the board if they know of any businesses that may like to make smaller sponsorship to help with our Winter Wonderland taking place in December. If anyone is interested, please reach out to M. Bellack.

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by M. Bellack and second by J. Brown. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 am.