

Toms River Business Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 8:00 a.m.
(Meeting conducted in person and via Zoom)

MINUTES

In attendance: Bill Beining, Mary Jo Buchanan, Lisa Cifaretto , Dean Gresek, Mike Hovance, Bob Hudak, Pam Piner, Danielle Szypinski, and Bob Shea Staff: Mairin Bellack, Melissa Fernandez, Liz Thomson Guests: Steve Belits Not present: Lou Amoruso, John Brown, Nicole DeMatteo, Tom Forgione, Gabe Gillen, Mayor Hill, Georgette Kyriacou, Sandra Lazzaro, Mike Little, Tony Palmucci, Lee Pelton, Pam Piner, and Arleen Read.

- Called to order at 8:03 a.m.
- Introductions & Announcements: M. Bellack reported that the township has moved the final read and approval of the BID budget to the first town council meeting in May. Mayor Hill asked M. Bellack to encourage downtown businesses to attend the April 26, 2023 council meeting as the designation of the developer of the Boat Works Project will be voted on.
- Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by M. Hovance and second by B. Beining, The minutes were unanimously approved.
- Committee Reports
- Cultural Committee (L. Cifaretto) – L. Cifaretto reported that her committee is having trouble with membership. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or has ideas about others who may be interested, please contact her. M. Fernandez suggested sending out a flier about membership, it was suggested that it go out to the Resident Committee. B. Shea recommended putting it on the website. Discussion ensued regarding the membership issue and how to possibly rectify the situation. The committee is planning a Senior Night to bring seniors downtown.
- Design (B. Beining)- B. Beining reported that the safety meeting went well and was productive. He reminded the board that if there are any problems to please call the police. By doing this, there is a record showing the actual need for a police presence. The banner flags are being worked on. M. Bellack is working with JCP&L to use their poles. There is a new process in place. M. Hovance inquired as to whether we should wait on sending out the banner applications to see if it all clears with JCP&L? B, Beining feels that the information should go out and worse case scenario the funds would be refunded to the donors.
- Economic Restructuring/Land Use (B. Shea) – M. Bellack reiterated the need for anyone able to attend the April 26, 2023 council meeting. She also informed the board that the township is working to purchase and

designate the pocket park on the corner of Robbins and Washington Street, open space.

- Finance (L. Pelton) – M. Bellack gave an update on 2023 sponsorship. This has been a particularly difficult year for having businesses sponsor due to a variety of issues. M. Bellack is continuing to pursue sponsors. Currently there is \$21,500 committed in pledges, but none received to date. P. Piner recommended reaching out to Citizens Bank as they are new to the area.
- Organization (D. Szypinski)- D. Szypinski reported that the Resident Committee has not met, but is hoping to meet shortly.
- Promotions (Tom Forgione)- M. Fernandez reported that Downtown Night Out starts on May 5, 2023. This will continue every Friday and Saturday night through the end of October. There will be a small street festival, Cinco De May, on May 6, 2023 from 12pm-5pm in conjunction with Downtown Night Out. There will be vendors and a Mariachi Band. The businesses have contributed to make the entertainment happen. There will also be a small event on April 29, 2023- a Line Dancing event. The businesses are contributing to this as well.

- Colleague Reports:

Township (Mayor Hill, Lou Amoruso and R. Hudak) – M. Bellack reported that she spoke with Mayor Hill and he asked for support of The BID and the downtown businesses. Mayor Hill also reported that the township is working to acquire the pocket park and designate it as open space.

Parking Authority (P. Piner)- P. Piner reported that the new meters are out and the Parking Authority is working on replacing all of them. Things at the Parking Authority are improving, They have formed a new planning committee. B. Beining shared that they are looking for part time employees. P. Piner shared that the core downtown has been upgraded to 4G meters.

County (S. Lazzaro) – No report

Library (Nicole DeMatteo)- No report

Chamber of Commerce (M. Papanikolas, Phil Brilliant)- No Report

Old Business: M. Buchan invited the board members to a free Fundraising Event Tuesday, April 25th 5:30 pm-7:00 pm at Garden State Distillery, 13 Washington Street.

New Business: None

Adjournment: a motion to adjourn was made by P. Piner and second by M. Hovance The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 am.