

# **Rahway Arts and Business Partnership Board of Trustees Meeting**

**March 16, 2017 6:30pm**

**1544 Irving Street Suite #204, Rahway, NJ**

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This meeting was properly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting opened 6:39pm.

- I. Trustees Present: President Joel Schwartz, Matt Dobrowolski, Patricia Kozlowski, Councilman Rodney Farrar, Managing Director Ann Marie Williams, Executive Director Amy Garcia Phillips.

Dave Crespo of 988 St George's Ave Rahway, NJ 07065, was in attendance.

- II. Patricia Kozlowski motioned to accept the minutes from January 5th, 2016. Joel Schwartz seconded the motion. Aye: 2; Nay: 0; Abstentions: 2

Danni Newbury entered the meeting 6:44pm.

- III. The Executive Team gave an update on the progress of the Taste of Spring , the annual food and wine tasting event, scheduled for April 21st, including a new sponsor, Gunter Wilhelm, a high end knife company, who will be donating personally inscribed knives to each of the winners. This event will be followed by the second annual Rahway Restaurant Week from April 22- 29.



The Executive Team gave an update of the other projects currently in progress including the Adopt a planter program which is a collaborative project involving the City, RABP and Rahway Garden Club; the city beautification pop- up art installations of bus stop murals and Yarn Art to go up this spring; and their collaboration with the Rahway Prevention Coalition on the youth center on Cherry Street, known as the Cherry Pit. The radAIR pop up art gallery project is currently on hold as the Park Square staff is in transition.

This year, in collaboration with Rahway High School VP Trish Volino and teacher/coach Dan Garay, the RABP's Rahway's Own committee created a Rahway's Own Rising Star category. Schools in the district and surrounding areas, were encouraged to select one outstanding Rahway student from their student body to be highlighted on a compilation poster and celebrated at an upcoming celebration on May 2nd.

The Managing Director gave a detailed report of the new businesses that opened in the SID including Rahway's Kitty Hall, Uruguma Herbalife, Haruka Sushi and Fresh Fish Market.

The RABP is assisting the City in courting the Visual Arts Center of NJ to activate the former Arts Guild building.

The Executive Director reported that Culture Crawl is currently being planned with the help of Matt Welty and Wizdom Media. The theme will be "Celebrating the Cultural Tapestry of Rahway".

The Managing Director took responsibility of the BBQ Competition that is part of Munch Madness from the City and followed the steps to make it a Sanctioned BBQ Competition via the Steak Cookoff Association. The event was held April 1, 2017. Various levels of Sponsorship was secured through Gunter Wilhelm, Grill Grates, Vrola Meats, Kingsford



charcoal and Walmart. The RABP assisted the City with the planning, programming and advertising for the entire event located at the Rec Center and City Hall parking lot.

IV. The Managing Director reviewed the financials and suggested the RABP retain a new accountant. The Board approved obtaining a proposal. Matt Dobrowolski motioned to accept the up to date financials. Patricia Kozlowski seconded the motion. Aye: 5 Nay; 0

The vote on the 2017 Budget will be postponed until the next meeting after an additional meeting to discuss specifics.

The RABP will provide the Fearless Icon annual singing competition the \$2500 in prize money, in exchange for close to \$8000 worth of tickets to the shows. The RABP will then give to businesses in the downtown or use to create new clientele for the UCPAC and subsequently, Rahway businesses. The RABP will work with the UCPAC to track the tickets and then report back to the Board at the conclusion of the competition.

V. The Executive Team distributed the 2015 Audit for review and will vote next meeting.

Trustee Danni Newbury invited the RABP to participate in the First Annual Family Pride Picnic on June 17th, this year it will be in Rahway River Park.

The RABP was asked by the Fresh Fish Market to art direct their window display.

In an effort to save a significant portion of the budget, the RABP office will move to a customized location in City Hall.

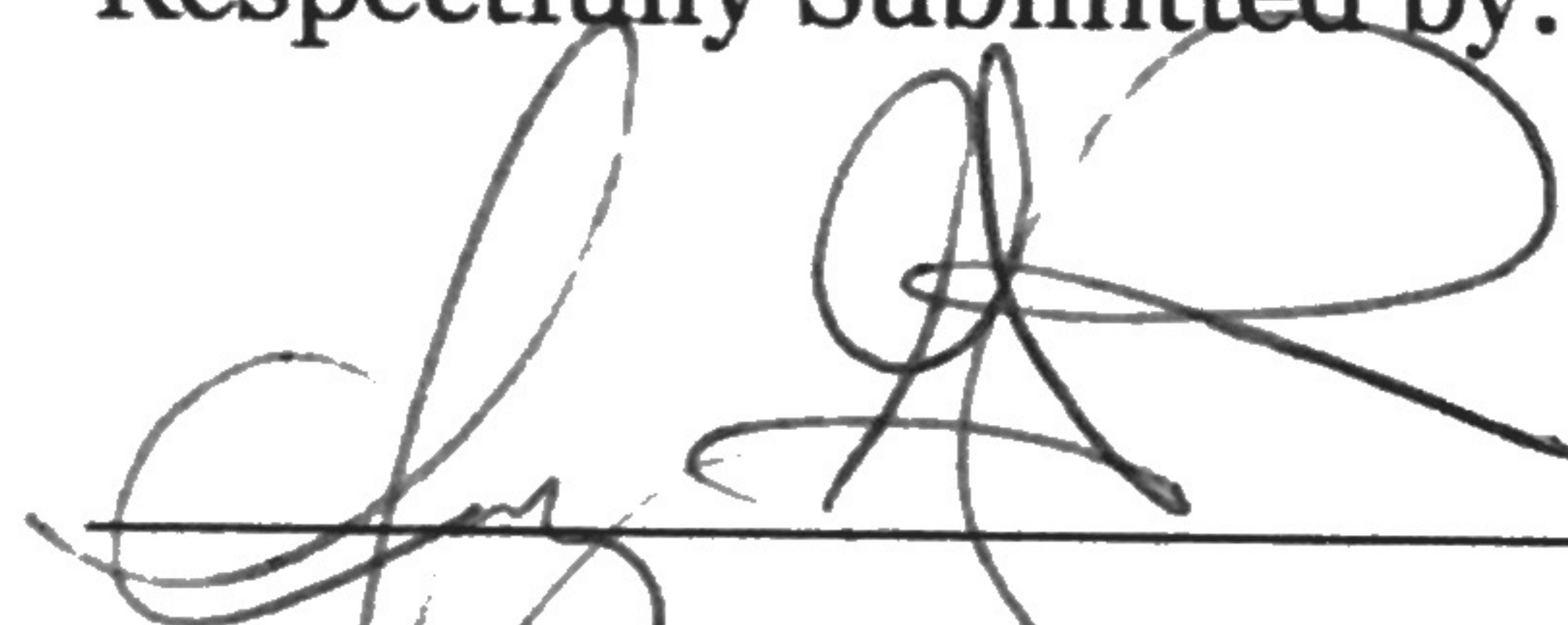


VI. The Nominating Committee introduced Dave Crespo and will formally consider him for a Trustee position.

Joel Schwartz Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt Dobrowolski seconded. Aye: 5 Nay: 0

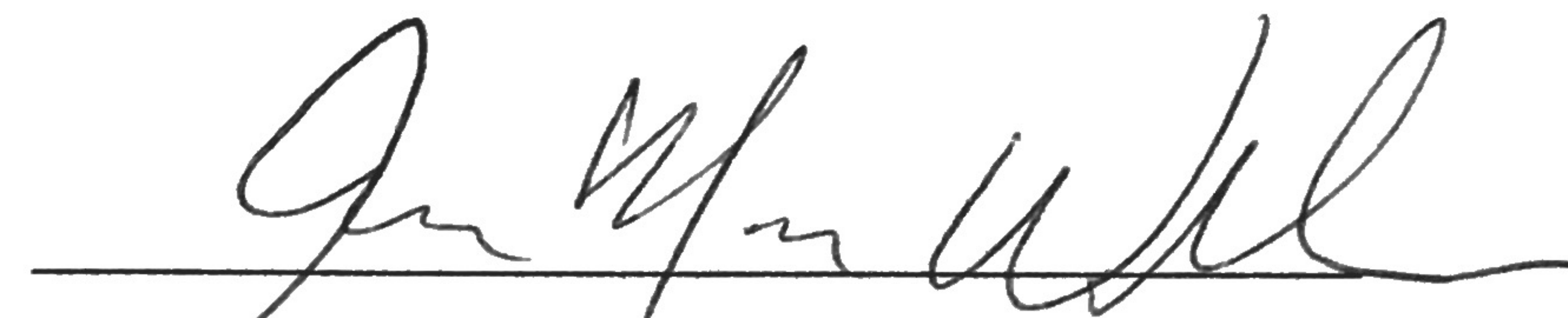
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



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Amy Garcia Phillips, Executive Director



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Ann Marie Williams, Managing Director

rahway arts  
+ business  
PARTNERSHIP

