

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

**November 9, 2017 6:30 pm**

**Rahway City Hall**

**2 City Hall Plaza 2nd floor, Rahway, NJ 07065**

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm

I. Trustees Present: President Joel Schwartz, Vice President Larry Fishman, Treasurer Ron Dolce, Danni Newbury, Dave Crespo, Executive Director Amy Garcia Phillips, Managing Director Ann Marie Williams

Patricia Kozlowski entered the meeting at 6:41pm.

II. Ron Dolce motioned to accept the Minutes from September 28, 2017. Joel Schwartz seconded the motion. Aye: 4. Nay:0 Abstentions: 2.

III. The Executive Team reported on the completion of the final bus stop beautification, a mural painted by Rahway native, Joel Guis, as well as other planned beautification for the holiday season. Local artist Francesca Rizzo is working with a team of people to design and decorate Cherry Street for Winter Wonderland. The City of Rahway, at the urging of the RABP, is purchasing new light-up snowflakes that will be attached to all the lampposts in the downtown. In addition, the RABP is purchasing string lights that will be wrapped around the Lampposts under the train trestles on Poplar and Main streets. Larry Fishman

advised to make sure the lights are uniform as there are variations in color and intensity, he also asked if they can be left up all year. The Executive Team will ask the City and DPW for approval. The RABP is also paying for mostly reusable decorations for the planters in front of City Hall and is considering adding more decorations to the Arts Park at the corner of Irving and Central.

The RABP provided details and an overview of the Rahway's Own event on October 18th at Rahway High School, which was a great success and received much positive feedback from both the recipients and the guests. This year the Committee also gave framed 8x10 versions of their poster to each recipient. Ron Dolce asked for it to be noted in the minutes that the event was wonderful and that Amy Garcia Phillips and Ann Marie Williams did a great job not only that day, but throughout the entire process and should be commended.

The City's Halloween celebration brought an estimated 10,000-15,000 people to the downtown. The RABP assisted in procuring money and candy donations from the businesses to offset the cost of what was needed. In addition they judged the Halloween contest and assisted the City in promoting and executing the event.

At the last RABP trustee meeting the Board inquired into whether the City Council representative was a voting member. The Executive Director investigated and the City Clerk and City lawyer concluded that it would be a conflict of interest. (Note: The letter from the lawyer is included in this month's minutes. )

Danni Newbury would like it to be reflected in the minutes that the volunteers from the Rahway Football team were an incredible help and should be commended for their enthusiasm and efforts during Culture Crawl. The Executive Director reported that thank

you letters commending the volunteers were sent to the Superintendent and other relevant administrators and coaches.

IV. Financial Report-

- Ending balance
  - Business Account ending 09/30/17 \$1,626.04
  - Operating Account ending 09/30/17 \$136,837.32
- Rahway Culture Crawl Expense 2017

| Overview                            |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Sponsorship collected         | \$13,900.00         |
| Total Crawl Expenses                | \$23,920.63         |
| What the RABP spent from our budget | <b>-\$10,020.63</b> |

- Adopt a Planter Expense 2017

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Total Expenses | \$225.42 |
|----------------|----------|

- Rahway's Own Expense 2017

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Total Expenses | \$9,806.79 |
|----------------|------------|

- Rising Star Expense 2017

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Total Expenses | \$1,285.72 |
|----------------|------------|

- Bus Stop Murals Expense 2017

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Total Expenses | \$2,713.78 |
|----------------|------------|

V. RABP Board Meeting for 2018 will be held on the second Thursday of every other month at 6:30pm in the office of the RABP, located at 1 City Hall Plaza, second floor. Rahway, NJ 07065 : January 10, March 8, May 10- **However we have a conflict. It is the day of the Rising Stars.** Jul 12, Sept 13, Nov 9.

Small Business Saturday will be held on Saturday, September 25th. The Managing Director of the RABP has been promoting each business through Facebook and has also received approval from the Parking Authority to bag the meters and provide free parking for the day. The Rahway Chamber of Commerce has collaborated with the RABP to promote this to the businesses. The RABP revised the 'Shop Local Rahway' logo from last year to "Experience Local Rahway", noting that Rahway is more of a destination location versus shopping district.

Ron Dolce requested the Executive Team investigate the possibility of keeping the meters bagged for the entire holiday season from Winter Wonderland through Christmas.

The Managing Director reported that Lot B is closing in order for the Main/Monroe project, located on Monroe Street, to begin. There will be 2 hour free parking in the parking garage. Larry Fishman request the RABP to look into drivers having access to the RSI Parking lot after a certain time.

Matt Dobrowolski entered the meeting @ 7:22pm.

#### New Businesses opened

- Cultured Expressions (soft opening)
- Salon 39
- Atilier Rose which is Gallery Space and Custom framing-
- Sinai Bakery
- Magnolia and Fig
- Gallery Space (formerly the location of the Arts Guild of NJ, commonly called The ART building.
- Watt hotel
- New businesses coming
  - Il Forn a Legna - Brick oven Pizza

- Businesses that closed
  - Nygels
  - Pure Vision MArketing
  - John Vincent Studios changed names
  - Pet Essentials

The Board requested the Executive Team send the Board the invitation to the opening and Ribbon Cutting of The Gallery Space held on November 3rd.

The RABP has been collecting the information of artists for the developer of the Willows Artist Housing. Applications will be set this month and begin to be accepted in December.

VI. The Executive Team reviewed with the Board the amount of terms each of the Trustees has served and how many additional terms they are eligible, to serve if they choose. In addition, they noted the Certificate of Incorporation and the By-Laws are in need of updating and will be accepting suggested potential changes prior to the next Board meeting. The Executive Team noted there are trustee positions available and new Trustees will need to be added to the Board as the term limits of Joel Schwartz and Matt Dobrowolski are coming to an end. The Executive Team will investigate if the term limits can be changed from the ordinance.

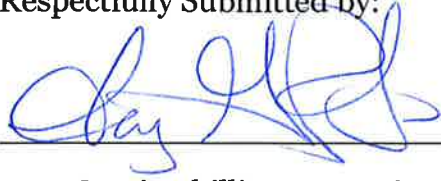
VII. There was no update from the City- Councilman Rodney Farrar

VIII. There was no Executive Session

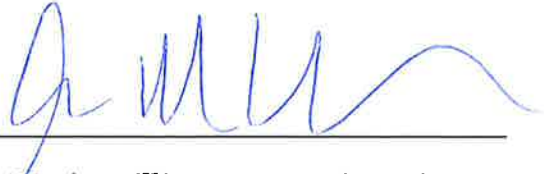
X. Ron Dolce Motioned to adjourn the meeting, Larry Fishman seconded. Aye:7 Nay: 0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Amy Garcia Phillips, Executive Director



Ann Marie Williams, Managing Director

rahway arts  
+ business  
PARTNERSHIP

