

Official Minutes for Rahway Arts + Business Partnership

Partnership Board of Trustees Meeting

July 9, 2020 at 6:30pm

The RA+BP meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. was conducted virtually in order to avoid potential impacts from Covid-19. Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the RA+BP will conduct all meetings remotely and by electronic means for the foreseeable future. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the RA+BP will be open to the public by electronic means.

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

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order 6:34 pm

Roll Call:

President Joel Schwartz

Vice President Larry Fishman

Treasurer Ron Dolce

Secretary Patricia Kozlowski

Matt Dobrowolski

Danni Newbury

Also in attendance

Executive Director Cindy Solomon

Managing Director Amy Garcia Phillips

Managing Director Ann Marie Williams

Councilwoman Joanna Miles

*Absent from the meeting : Crespo

President Joel Schwartz entered the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Minutes: Any necessary changes to the minutes of Meeting May 14, 2020 shall be made at this time and approved by action of the Board.

Motion: Dobrowolski Second: Dolce

Aye: 4 Nay : 0 Abstentions: Fishman, Kozlowski

Absent: Crespo

Meeting Summary:

Executive Director's Report

Cindy Solomon announced her impending retirement in September 2020. Joel Schwartz acknowledged his pleasure of working with Cindy Solomon over the years and noted she will be missed.

Rahway CARES Program was successfully executed with the assistance of the UCEDC, \$240,000 was distributed to 65 Rahway's Businesses with \$10,000 covering the UCEDC's fee.

Managing Director's Report

- Rahway Strong Business Recovery Plan included a survey of a cross section of businesses throughout the City. It also provided the creation of outdoor seating for dining and separate outdoor space for fitness classes, and the “*OPEN for Business*” flags. The RABP gave out poles, brackets and “Open” flags to downtown and West Grand businesses.
- The RA+BP will be participating in the Seton Hall Marketing and Research class in the fall. The student team will work with the RA+BP to develop a centralized question to be researched and answered by the students throughout the semester.
- Kennedy Landscaping was hired to complete the initial planting of the downtown planters. They are also maintaining the elevated Train Station Plaza Planters. Kennedy Landscaping is being considered for a full replanting of the Train Station’s elevated planters.
- The RA+BP paid for *Hometown Hero’s* banners to be created and hung along St. Georges. These banners depict Rahway veterans who died while in service.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Culture Crawl Summer Music Series, which was originally planned for the outdoor locations of the Paseo and Arts Park, will be live streamed on Facebook until there is a change in policy from City Administration. By streaming the concerts, the RA+BP will continue to support the artists that participate in our events, and ensure that the musicians keep that time available when outside live performances are once again allowed.

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- We continue to virtually meet with our leasing agents and have expanded to include management companies throughout the City, not just in the downtown.

New Business:

- The RA+BP is looking to add Retail businesses to their zoom meeting schedule.
- The RA+BP hopes to make contact and build relationships with the larger, national franchise businesses such as, Wendy's and Mc Donalds.
- The RA+BP is considering how to make the outdoors public spaces more accessible for the fall, perhaps with the addition of Heaters.

Financial Report

- Bank Statements for the operating account as of May 31, 2020
- 249,182.27 as of June 15

Update from City:

- The City raised the LGBT flag, which included the black and brown stripes, at the Train Station Plaza.
- In conjunction with the NAACP, the City celebrated *Juneteenth* with a ceremony at the cemetery and a flag raising at City Hall, marking the first time the flag was raised at City Hall. The Mayor indicated that Rahway would continue to celebrate this yearly event.

RABP Board

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There being no further business; the meeting shall adjourn.

Motion: Matt Seconded: ron

Aye:6 Nay :0 Abstentions: 0

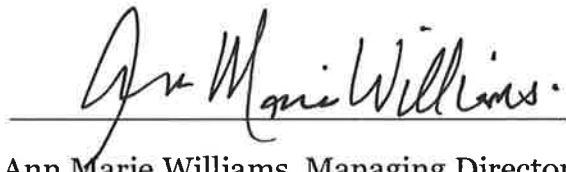
Absent:

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 pm



Amy Garcia Phillips, Managing Director

Date signed: 9/11/2020



Ann Marie Williams, Managing Director

Date signed: 9/11/2020.

