

Official Minutes for Rahway Arts + Business Partnership

Partnership Board of Trustees Meeting Sept 10, 2020 at 6:30pm

The RA+BP meeting scheduled for Thursday, Sept 10 , 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 6:32 pm

Roll Call:

President Joel Schwartz

Treasurer Ron Dolce

Secretary Patricia Kozlowski

Matt Dobrowolski

Dave Crespo

Danni Newbury

Also in attendance

Councilperson Joanna Miles

Managing Director Ann Marie Williams

Managing Director Amy Garcia Phillips

Absent: Larry Fishman

Public guests:

Mark Hyrna of 601 Observer Highway, Hoboken, NJ 07030

Ben Ashe of 901 Hamilton Street Rahway, NJ 07065

Minutes: Any necessary changes to the minutes of Meeting July 9, 2020 shall be made at this time and approved by action of the Board.

Motion: Dobrowolski Second: Dolce

Aye: 4 Nay : 0 Abstentions: Crespo

Absent: Fishman

Meeting Summary:

Managing Director's Report

The RABP Managers have been meeting with City Engineer weekly to ensure communication with the City stays consistent after the retirement of Executive Director Cindy Solomon.

Kennedy Landscaping was hired to plant the downtown planters and the elevated Train Station Plaza planters. They have been continuing general maintenance of these areas.

New Business

Culture Crawl as a one day arts event cannot happen this year due to the pandemic. We are marking the month of September with a few activities. The *Best of the Culture Crawl Reel Short Film Festival* will play one short film prior to the UCPAC's *Movies Under the Stars* on

Fridays in September. We will host the Culture Crawl *Art Selfie Stroll*, the community will take a selfie photo with ten works of art throughout the City and submit all ten photos to enter into a drawing for a gift certificate to Rahway businesses. Chalk will be placed outside before the movies at the UCPAC and at the Cherry Street Alley for the *Culture Crawl Community Art Fun*. There will be PPE and all will be encouraged to wipe down the supplies before and after use.

The RA+BP is exploring several City Beautifications plans. Purchasing new artistic bike racks to be placed throughout the City, replant the Train Station Plaza's elevated planters and add a new large sculpture, and add more Yarn Art in the Cherry Street alleyway.

The RA+BP is working with the Seton Hall Research and Marketing class. The focus of the research is to determine how to engage the residents in the apartment complexes with the businesses of Rahway.

In meetings with the City Engineer, the RA+BP is developing a five year plan for large streetscape projects.

Danni Newbury entered the meeting at 6:51pm.

Starting September 21st, the RA+BP will employ a maintenance person, who will focus on maintaining the cleanliness of the downtown area. It was suggested that a uniform be created so it is clear that this is an employee of the City and the RA+BP.

The RA+BP is participating in regular Business Recovery meetings with the City Engineer and the Director of the Rec Center, for Phase 2 Business Recovery plans.

Financials

The Managing Director reviewed the financials and the amended budget of \$250,000.

Update from the City

Councilperson Danni Newbury, on behalf of the City, commended the RA+BP for their continued commitment to serving businesses. Rahway is supporting businesses in ways that other cities and towns are not.

Other Business

Creative Rahway for Education meetings will be continuing in the fall.

Matt Dobrowloski commented that the Rahway real estate market is extremely active and prices are escalating. The rental market is also very active.

Councilperson Joanna Miles entered at 7:08pm.

Miles reported that the *Spanktown Splash* canoe race is this Saturday and the *Tapas Trail* was very successful and received many good reviews.

Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn the meeting

Motion: Dolce Second: Dobrowolski

Aye: 6 Nay : 0 Abstentions: 0

Absent: Crespo

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

Amy Garcia Phillips

Amy Garcia Phillips, Managing Director

Date signed: 11/12/2020

Ann Marie Williams

Ann Marie Williams, Managing Director

Date signed: 11/12/2020

rahway arts
+business
PARTNERSHIP

