

Official Minutes for Rahway Arts + Business Partnership Partnership Board of Trustees Meeting

January 14, 2021 at 6:30pm

The RA+BP meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021 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 6:36 pm

Roll Call:

President Joel Schwartz

Secretary Patricia Kozlowski

Treasurer Ron Dolce

Also in attendance

Councilperson Joanna Miles, Managing Director Ann Marie Williams

Managing Director Amy Garcia Phillips, Rahway City Planner, Gabe Bailer

Absent: Crespo, Newbury, Fishman, Dobrowolski

Meeting Summary:

Managing Director's Report

The Executive Team reported on the RA+BP's participation in the Seton Hall Marketing and Research class and Kean University's Public Relations Class. Recommendations are being assessed and implemented when possible.

City beautification efforts are ongoing. The addition of a downtown maintenance position has been very valuable. Julio Mercado has assisted in setting up the 15 min Pick Up Parking spots throughout the downtown, continues to monitor lamp post outages, cleans and maintains the public spaces, as well as snow removal when necessary.

The *Rahway's Own 2020* virtual event was very successful. Matt Milligan, a past *Rising Star* from Rahway High School and CEO of his personal production company, *MattQ Productions*, was hired by the RA+BP to execute the event. We will continue to work with Mr. Milligan in the future, and as a gift of gratitude, he will be redesigning the *Rahway's Own* website.

New Business

The RA+BP reported on upcoming events such as the Soup Stroll, Restaurant Week, the *Rahway's Own* scavenger hunt and the Martin Luther King events. The City and RA+BP received much positive press around the Soup Stroll and Restaurant Week.

The RA+BP will be applying for a Main Street America Designation from the Department of Community Affairs. This will assist the RA+BP with grant opportunities.

The RA+BP along with the City Administration are launching a second round of Rahway CARES. This will be a grant instead of a forgivable loan and the money will be paid from previously collected SID taxes that had been held for the duration of the litigation and were released at the conclusion of the lawsuit. The first round of CARES forgivable loans were disbursed from this money.

There is approximately \$315,000 remaining. We intend to invest as much of this as we can in the businesses that need assistance. If there is money left over, we will issue a Rahway CARES III. If more than this amount is requested, the City will supplement.

1. Businesses will be able to apply for a maximum of \$4000- with different amounts allowed in each category (See breakdown below)

There are eight (8) categories for CARES Act II funding

- Base award - \$1,500
- Outdoor heaters – Maximum \$750
- Outdoor enclosures – Maximum \$2,000
- PPE – Maximum amount \$1,000
- Construction – Maximum amount \$2500
- Tech grant – Maximum amount \$2,500
- Food delivery service – Maximum amount - \$1,000
- Past business expenses – Maximum amount \$2,500

Other Details:

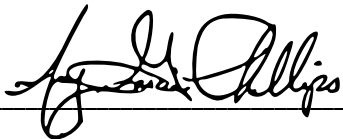
- The City reserves the right to award grant funding at it's discretionary use of available monies
- Application deadline is February 8th (could be extended)

- Receipts, contracts, invoices not required for:
 - Base award
 - PPE
 - Food delivery
- No credit score is required for applicants
- If application is approved, UCEDC will send web link to applicants to upload receipts, contracts, invoices where applicable
- Web link can be used multiple times to upload receipts, contracts, invoices
- Deadline to submit, receipts, contracts, past due invoices is March 15th
- Supermarkets/Food stores with less than 20 employees are now eligible
- Maximum amount of grant is \$4,000, but you can apply for less
- Contract with UCEDC was approved by resolution at the January 11th City Council meeting
- Ann Marie will be point person with UCEDC once again

Motion to authorize the Rahway CARES Grant II :

Based on the information that was presented at the meeting on January 14, 2021, based on the discussion as well as the information that was sent out via email, the RA+BP board approves the RA+BP's participation in CARES II with the understanding, that in the coming weeks the final form of documents will be drawn up. The Board of Trustees is authorizing President Joel Schwartz to sign the documents provided they are consistent with conversation held on the evening of January 14, in order for the documents to be finalized and memorialized.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.



Amy Garcia Phillips, Managing Director



Ann Marie Williams, Managing Director

Date signed: 3/11/2021

Date signed: 3/11/21

rahway arts
+business
PARTNERSHIP

