



Mayor's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 - 5:00 P.M.

Attendees:

Anthony Armando – Host and Special Improvement District, City of Rahway

Karin Napier – Special Improvement District, City of Rahway

Heidi Loder-Rosal – Atelier Rosal

Laura Bellevue – Resident within the SID District

Absent: Peter Kowal, Rafael Ortiz, Herve Gaspard

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Mayor's Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule & Times
Tuesday, April 2nd at 5pm at Rahway City Hall, SID Office

Anthony Armando opened the meeting and updated the committee on a variety of projects:

- 1. SID Business Improvement Program and Facade Improvement Program Update** – The committee was updated that 36 eligible businesses have been fully funded. Another 30 continue processing. Also, some of the new businesses have recently applied.
- 2. Soup Stroll Recap** - The event was held on four Saturdays in January and was even more popular than last year's event.
- 3. Main Street Construction – Elizabethtown Gas Project** - Elizabethtown Gas will be replacing gas mains, services and meters on Main Street, East Milton and East Cherry Street starting on Friday, March 1, 2024. The project is expected to run through the end of April. Significant detours and vehicular traffic delays are expected while construction is ongoing. Work is Monday through Friday from 7:00AM to 4:00PM (weather permitting). During construction hours, sidewalks will remain open to pedestrians. Southbound lanes of Main Street are anticipated to remain open with exception of the section between Irving Street and Coach Street and limited times when the full road will need to be closed for construction activity. The project is scheduled to occur over several phases to minimize impact to businesses and residents within the project limits as noted below. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

PHASE 1 – GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT = Sawcutting – Starting 3/1 through 3/21

Main Street Phase - working on various intersections between 3/4-3/21

East Milton Phase - working between Broad St & Pierce St – Full intersection closure – 3/18 to 3/19

Cherry Street Phase - working between Main St & Monroe St – Full closure of E. Cherry Street between Main Street and the Monroe Street Extension. Elizabethtown has not yet finalized the schedule for the work on E. Cherry Street Phase.

PHASE 2 – GAS SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - Following gas main installation, Elizabethtown will begin changing the gas services and meters for each building. Elizabethtown Gas has notified the City that they will be coordinating with each building owner and tenant to schedule the replacements.

PHASE 3 – ROADWAY RESURFACING - Following completion of all gas main and service replacements, the work limits will be resurfaced by Elizabethtown.

4. SID Upcoming Projects & Events

- a. Website Revamp
 - i. Public Art Map – we are planning out QR codes to be placed at each piece of public art. A Map online would follow.
 - ii. Event Calendar – working with Wizdom Media to create a new calendar on RIH website that would allow local businesses and leasing companies to request that their own events be posted. We will supply the size requirements for graphics and type of file for submission.
 - iii. Business Directory – photos of businesses will be worked on as well as link to business website.
- b. Merck Relationship – a Merck Meeting was held in December. Progress continues slowly to work with the corporation to coordinate information to them about the goings on in Rahway.
- c. Restaurant Meeting – Held on two dates - February 12th & 15th
- d. Women in Business Networking Event – March 27 – Wizdom is leading this event
- e. Taste of Spring – April 5 – 21st annual event.
- f. NJ Transit Arts Express – May 4. UCPAC co-promotion with Avenel Arts. Anthony will speak with Nick Rosal about booking musicians for the train station plaza. There will be a mural dedication of Arts District Park.
- g. Hot Rods & Harleys – May 11
- h. NCNW Student Art Exhibition – book exchanges and exposing kids to more art. Heidi spoke to the group and mentioned that there are 17 locations hosting.

5. Open Discussion / New Business

Suggestions made were as follows:

- Look into sharing our important event postings with Merck’s calendar, maybe they would consider sharing our calendar link.
- Lack of working lighting in the downtown – please ask appropriate officials to focus on inventorying and repairing lighting that is down on Elizabeth Avenue, Main and Irving streets as well as on the bridges and underneath the train trestles.
- Police presence is lacking downtown this time of the year. No one has been seen patrolling on foot, and it is especially sparse in the evenings. It was requested that we inform the Police Director that we would like to see more police patrolling at dining times and at night on foot and in cars.
- Please inform the Health Department to address the Cherry Street and Hamilton Street areas which are filled with dog feces. If officials ticket dog walkers to curtail this behavior as well as making it know that dogs must be licensed and on a leash. It was asked that they encourage all to practice being a good neighbor for the sake of the neighborhoods.

6. Ribbon Cuttings

X-Press Grab & Go – A ceremony happened on December 12th. Located at 1725 St Georges Avenue, owners Peter & Susan offer a varied selection of premium meats and specialty sandwiches.

Charles Flowers & Gourmet Baskets – A ceremony happened on January 30th. Located at 1645 Irving Street, Mirlande Charles offers an enchanting world of blooms and botanical wonders. Fresh floral designs and gifts for all occasions are available to take home or ship anywhere worldwide.

Anthony thanked everyone for and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.