

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation/
Downtown Special Assessment District
Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2015**

Attending: Richard Antokol, Austin Fisher, Rudy Grant, Heather Peterson, Jack McDonald, Lori Selden
Absent: Chris Spraragen, Joe O'Connor, Carmel Patrick
Staff: Jim Salengo, Colleen Merays, Gail White

Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation

Richard Antokol opened the meeting at 8:22am.

Jim Salengo welcomed Lori Selden to the board.

1) Approvals

- a) **Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2015 & August 25, 2015** – Richard Antokol asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June and August board meetings.

Heather Peterson made a motion to approve the board minutes from June 30, 2015 & August 25, 2015. Rudy Grant seconded the motion. All in favor.

1) Executive Director's Report

- a) **2015 Building Block Party Update** – The event is this Thursday at 5:30pm at Proctors. We are slightly over last year's sponsorship total. There will be a reception for the honorees in the lobby of the Parker Inn from 4:30-5:30pm with light appetizers and champagne.
- b) **2015 Wing Walk Results** – The October 3 event was a sellout, with more than 1,000 tickets sold. Restaurants were happy with the move to the weekend and indicated that their bar business was up over a normal Saturday afternoon. We netted about \$6,000, which will be split between us and the Schenectady County Visitors Agency for future programming.
- c) **New DSIC Website** – The new website at www.downtownschenectady.org is now live, so please check it out. We are still working out a few minor bugs. We will announce the new site shortly after the Block Party.
- d) **City Hall-iday** – The Downtown Schenectady City Hall-iday event will be held at Schenectady City Hall on Saturday, December 12 from Noon-4pm. We will once again have horse and carriage rides, crafts for kids, photos with Santa and more.
- e) **Hometown Heroes Banners** – The Hometown Heroes banners will come down after Veterans Day. There will be a closing reception on November 19 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Fenimore Gallery in Proctors for sponsors and honorees to pick up their banners.
- f) **Small Business Saturday** – The DSIC will be participating in Small Business Saturday again this year to help promote our local businesses. The date is November 28. We will partner once again with the Chamber and the Upper Union Street BID.
- f) **Friday After Thanksgiving** – Jim recommended to the board that that we close the office the day after Thanksgiving. Many DSIC staff members are traveling for the holiday, plus some have to work on Small Business Saturday. The board agreed to the recommendation to close the office this year and to look more closely at this day for future consideration.

2) 2016 Budget/Work Plan Discussion

- a) **Budget Discussions** – The board discussed preliminary budget figures and programming for the 2016 fiscal year. Two additional budget planning meetings are scheduled for November 3 and November 10 from Noon-3pm. Some assessment statistics will be prepared for the next meeting. The budget must be passed by November 13 to meet the City Council's approval process.

Heather Peterson made a motion to close the DSIC meeting. Lori Selden seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 9:55am.

Downtown Special Assessment District

Richard Antokol opened the DSAD at 9:55am.

No new business.

Lori Selden made a motion to close the DSAD. Heather Peterson seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 9:56am.