

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation/  
Downtown Special Assessment District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2015**

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

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation**

Richard Antokol Opened the meeting at 8:25am

**1) Approvals**

- a) **Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2015** – Richard Antokol asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 30, 2015 board meeting.

*Rudy Grant made a motion to approve the board minutes from June 30, 2015. Austin Fisher seconded the motion. All in favor.*

- b) **2015 Board Candidates** – Jim Salengo recapped that a three-year board term is open due to Sid Ramotar's resignation. Scott Johnson has resigned his board position for health reasons, leaving a year left on his term. Jack McDonald and Joe O'Connor have expressed interested in additional three-year terms. Carmel Patrick of miSci and Lori Selden of Mexican Radio expressed interest in the open seats. Chris Spraragen and Austin Fisher served as a nominating committee and interviewed both Carmel and Lori; they felt both would be assets to the board. The nominating committee recommended Jack McDonald, Joe O'Connor and Carmel Patrick for three-year terms and Lori Selden to fill the remainder of Scott Johnson's term.

*Heather Peterson made a motion to accept the nominating committee's recommended of Jack McDonald, Joe O'Connor and Carmel Patrick for three-year terms and Lori Selden to fill the remainder of Scott Johnson's term and to send the recommendations to the Mayor. Rudy Grant seconded the motion. All in favor (Jack McDonald not present for vote).*

- c) **Office Lease** – Jim Salengo and Colleen Merays met with our building's real estate agents about a renewal of the DSIC lease, which expires in May 2016. Terms for a five-year renewal would be \$2,000 for the first three years (a \$100 monthly increase) and \$2,100 for the second two years. If the building sells, the new owners would have to honor the lease. Our current lease extension has no buy-out or termination clause, but includes a clause that states after one year we could leave with six months' notice and no penalty. The board recommended that the lease be written as a second extension of our current lease with all previous addendums and clauses in effect.

*Heather Peterson made a motion to accept the lease renewal on the condition that it is written as a second extension of our current lease with all previous clauses and addendums in place. Jack McDonald seconded the motion. All in favor.*

## 1) Executive Director's Report

- a) **New DSIC Website** – Jim Salengo stated that the DSIC's new website will launch after Labor Day and is much more mobile friendly. He presented a short tour of it on his laptop.
- b) **2015 Wing Walk** – We are once again partnering with the Schenectady County Visitors Agency (SCVA) on this event. We are moving the Wing Walk to the first Saturday in October from Noon - 5pm and we will be promoting after hours events. Tickets will be \$10 (\$5 for students with I.D.) and we will cap the number sold to 1,000. Tickets will go on sale September 3 through Proctors. This year, along with guests voting for their favorite wing, we will have a panel of celebrity judges voting in several categories.
- c) **2015 Building Block Party** – Colleen Merays noted we have 41 sponsors equaling \$29,000 in cash; 25 honorary committee sponsors equates to an additional \$4,375. Our total raised to date is \$33,475, which is currently about \$1,400 under last year's sponsorships. We have 20 food table sponsors and 4 tray sponsors. This year we have added a ticket price of \$35 for the 35 and under age group, hoping to bring some younger business people into the mix.

## 2) New/Old Business

- a) **2016 DISIC Priorities/Budget Planning** – The DSIC staff met on August 21 to start planning for next year's priorities. We need to set up a time for the board to meet and provide feedback and input for 2016. Colleen will send an email to all board members to determine a day/time.
- b) **Review of Bylaws for NYS Compliance** – Our auditor Jason Marra emailed information that will help with some required updates to our policies and procedures. No attorney assistance is recommended at this time. All NYS filings have been submitted.

*Jack McDonald made a motion to close the DSIC meeting. Chris Spraragen seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 9:25am.*

## Downtown Special Assessment District

**Richard Antokol opened the DSAD at 9:25am.**

*Rudy Grant made a motion to send the board nominations as discussed above to the Mayor. Heather Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention (Jack McDonald).*

*Rudy Grant made a motion to close the DSAD. Chris Spraragen seconded the meeting. Meeting closed at 9:27am.*