

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation/
Downtown Special Assessment District
Board Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2016**

Attending: Richard Antokol, Austin Fisher, Carmel Patrick, Heather Peterson, Jeff Desnoyers, Jeff Morlang
Absent: Lori Selden, Chris Spraragen, Rudy Grant
Staff: Jim Salengo, Colleen Merays, Gail White

Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation

Richard Antokol opened the meeting at 12:07pm.

1) Approvals

- a) **Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2016** – Richard asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2016, board meeting.

Heather Peterson made a motion to approve the board minutes from May 31, 2016. Carmel Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.

3) Executive Director's Report

- a) **Annual Meeting Mingle Update** – Jim Salengo advocated for switching the Building Block Awards to the Annual Meeting, since the Building Block Party is primarily a social event and it is difficult to properly honor the recipients. Awards would be changed to the Downtown Partnership Awards and would honor those who have worked closely with us over the past year. This year, Ray & Jeff Legere are strong nominees for their help with the Hometown Heroes Banner ceremony at the Armory and storage of our flower baskets. Also, the Jay Street Business Association has come together to bring more activity and awareness to the street. Heather Peterson suggested that all board members attend the meeting and try to bring someone not familiar with the DSIC. Jim also reminded board members that they needed to nominate a slate of officers to be voted on and announced at the Annual Meeting Mingle.

*Carmel Patrick made a motion to move the **Building Block Awards** to the **Annual Meeting Mingle**, rename them the **Downtown Partnership Awards** and honor **Ray & Jeff Legere** and the **Jay Street Business Association** for 2016. All in favor.*

- b) **City Living Tour & HOMES Fair** – We set up a table outside on Jay Street with about 15 other vendors from the HOMES Fair on June 26. For a first time event, it went very well. We had 75+ people come through to tour downtown residential spaces. Jeff Morlang from Maddalone Assoc. was very pleased with the turnout and the people that visited. We also received a nice thank you from the people at One 11 Liberty Street. The Times Union has contacted Jim about a follow-up article on downtown residential.
- c) **Hometown Heroes Banners** - The opening ceremony on June 1 went very well. For the second round, we have 18 additional banners to go up after July 4, for a total of 45 banners.

d) Downtown Events/Promotions

- i. Schenectady Smiles Photo Contest** – Schenectady Smiles is having a public photo contest through the Daily Gazette with photos submitted in various categories. There will be a Pep Rally at City Hall in August to wrap up the contest and announce winners.
- ii. Schenectady County SummerNight** – The event is July 15, 5-10pm. For the first time there will be a nationally known headliner, the Gin Blossoms. It should be a very busy night for downtown.
- iii. Canal Fest** – As part of Canal Fest this year, there will 650 bicycle riders from the Cycle the Erie tour that will come through Schenectady. A bike lane is being added on Washington Avenue to make it easier for them to travel. Schenectady County, Upper Union Street and the DSIC are working together to get information to the bikers to promote what is happening in Schenectady while they are here.

4) New/Old Business

- i) Flower Baskets** - Richard Antokol suggested a new vendor to contact when we do the RFP for our 2017 flower baskets. He purchased his baskets this year from Schultz and was very happy with them; they said they could handle the large DSIC order. Richard has also gotten some very nice compliments from people about how nice and clean the downtown area was.
- ii) Board Planning Session** – Colleen will be sending out proposed dates in August for the board/staff 2017 planning session.

Austin Fisher made a motion to close the DSIC meeting. Heather Peterson seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 12:47pm.

Downtown Special Assessment District

Richard Antokol opened the DSAD meeting at 12:47pm

No new business.

Heather Peterson made a motion to close the DSAD. Austin Fisher seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 1:48pm.