

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation/  
Downtown Special Assessment District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2017**

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

**Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation**

Richard Antokol opened the meeting at 12:09pm.

**1) Approvals**

- a) **Meeting Minutes:** Richard asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2016 board meeting.

*Heather Peterson made a motion to approve the board minutes from November 29, 2016. Carmel Patrick seconded the motion. All in favor.*

**2) Executive Director's Report**

- a) **New Bookkeeper** – Jim introduced the DSIC's new bookkeeper, Ginger Gunter.

**b) Casino Opening – February 8**

**i. Impact on Downtown** - Jim has attended planning meetings for opening day. If the casino hits capacity, they plan to issue vouchers to come back at a certain time. The City will be putting out a sign at Erie & Liberty to direct people to public lots. We hope to see some of the excess traffic downtown. We cannot place our Visitor Guide at the casino, but we will be giving them to all parking lot attendants and Ambassadors.

**ii. Trolley** - In March there will be a free shuttle running between the casino and downtown. Not sure yet of the stops, but we will work to get our printed materials on the shuttles.

**iii. Downtown boundary expansion research** – Jim has been working with Colleen looking at possibilities. Jim's thesis paper for his MBA needs to be complete by May 20, so he is planning to report to the board at the June meeting.

**c) Outdoor Program –**

**i. Equipment Grant** - Jim has talked with Jayme from Metroplex regarding our old and failing equipment. He will submit a request for a new truck, Bobcat and electric vehicle for a total of about \$113,000 for Metroplex's consideration.

**ii. Operating Grant** - Our 2017 Metroplex operating grant request will go up from \$160,650 to \$175,000 to help cover costs of the new planters on Union Street and maintenance of the new Gateway Plaza on Lower State Street.

**iii. Staffing** – Rob Gannon is out on short term medical disability; hopefully he will be back in March.

**iv. Warehouse** – With the re-development of the Mill Lane Artisan District, we will need to find new warehouse space. We are talking with Metroplex about sharing a space with their parking lot maintenance program.

**d) Marketing & Communications**

**i. Schenectady Soup Scroll** – Recap from January 28 – The event was a great success. Of the people that have responded to our survey, we estimate about 4,000 people attended. Going forward, we may consider a small participation fee and/or look at getting sponsors for the event to cover our costs.

**ii. Schenectady Restaurant Week – February 20-26** – At this point, only three restaurants have committed, but the deadline is Feb. 3. This year, we will host event information and menus on our website and collect the funds from participating restaurants. We are not doing the *Dining Guide* this year, as it was a paid advertising piece and we are concerned it is not fully representative of the restaurants in Schenectady.

**3) New/Old Business** – Jeff Morlang noted that Maddalone & Associates has taken over management of the large apartment building across the street from the DSIC office.

*Chris Spraragen made a motion to close the DSIC meeting. Carmel Patrick seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 1:00pm.*

Richard Antokol opened the DSAD at 1:03pm.

No new business.

*Jeff Morlang made a motion to close the DSAD. Jeff Desnoyers second the motion. DSAD closed at 1:04pm.*