

**BRIDGEPORT DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
February 12, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

The DSSD Board of Commissioners Meeting took place at the offices of the Bridgeport DSSD, 938 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

In attendance:

**Commissioners**

Phil Pires, C & W Associates II, Chair  
Kim Morque, Main State Ventures, Vice Chair  
Eric Gross, John Broadcannon, Treasurer  
Bob Schneider, Jimmy's A & N, Secretary  
Karolyn Egbert, Trefz Corporation  
David Iassogna, People's United Bank  
Philip Kuchma, Kuchma Corporation  
Ryan McClay, Forstone Capital  
Matt Meyer, Bordentown DB, LLC

**Staff**

Lauren Coakley Vincent, DSSD President  
Harold Hassel, DSSD/Block By Block

**Guests**

Elder Alban, Block by Block  
Michael Curreri, Block by Block  
Assistant Chief Rebeca Garcia, Bridgeport Police  
Carmen Nieves, The WorkPlace  
Daniel Roach, City of Bridgeport

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pires called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Pires opened the meeting by welcoming guests Elder Alban and Michael Curreri from Block by Block, Assistant Police Chief Rebeca Garcia, Carmen Nieves from The WorkPlace, and Daniel Roach from the City of Bridgeport.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kuchma made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2020, DSSD Board Meeting, as presented. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**IV. TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Gross provided an explanation of the financial report as provided by the bookkeeper. The Bridgeport DSSD ended the month of December 2019 with \$114,349, of which \$101,736 was cash spread across two bank accounts. Liabilities totaled \$49,956, encompassed by a mix of Accounts Payable and Deferred Revenue. Net Assets at the end of the month totaled \$99,850. The accrued revenue was \$317,816 – primarily City of Bridgeport tax payments. Expenses for the same period totaled \$321,173. Accrued revenue for the period fell short of expenses by \$3,357. Commissioner McClay made a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Iassogna seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**V. REPORT FROM THE CITY**

Mr. Roach introduced Assistant Police Chief Rebeca Garcia to the board. Assistant Chief Garcia spoke about the current reorganization of sector oversight and shift schedules for captains and lieutenants, as well as her plans to ensure that the Downtown has appropriate coverage on all days of the week. She noted that the Police Department should return to normal staffing levels by the end of April, and shared contact information for shift captains to contact until that time. The DSSD board strongly requested that the Downtown detail be restored at that time.

Among other topics, Mr. Roach spoke about current City bidding opportunities for projects in the Downtown, including the development of a high-speed ferry terminal adjacent to the Port Jefferson Ferry landing, the development and implementation of a city-wide marketing strategy, and the replacement of a mural on a building in Downtown North.

## **VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

DSSD Operations Manager Harold Hasell shared the monthly cleaning highlights from the team of Ambassadors. Mr. Hasell thanked Mr. Iassogna and People's Bank for providing an indoor storage space for some of the clean team's equipment. DSSD President Lauren Coakley Vincent introduced Mr. Curreri and Mr. Alban from Block by Block, noting that Mr. Alban would be taking over the Bridgeport DSSD Operations Manager role at the end of the month. Mr. Curreri shared the onboarding plan for Mr. Alban and the new Ambassadors that were being added to bring the team to 220 hours per week.

Ms. Coakley Vincent shared highlights from the Colorful Bridgeport campaign's activities over the last month, including the release of themed newsletters or guides. She noted that the mural crowdfunder was coming to a close, having raised over \$5,000 through direct contributions and a matching grant from Sustainable CT. Finally, Ms. Coakley Vincent shared that the Harbor Yard Amphitheater had announced its first series of concerts, starting in July.

## **VII. REPORTS OF STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **A. Chairman/Executive**

Mr. Pires reported on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on February 5, 2020. The Committee reviewed the meeting request letter to Mayor Ganim. The Committee discussed Block by Block's performance and the new operations manager joining the team. The Committee reviewed the budget in light of the upcoming fiscal year 2021 budgeting process. The Committee also set the agenda for the February board meeting.

### **B. Physical Conditions**

Mr. Iassogna reported on the Physical Conditions Committee meeting that was held on January 31, 2020. The Committee reviewed the Ambassador performance report. And heard from Ms. Coakley Vincent that the State Dept. of Transportation had agreed to clean out the fenced areas by the Route 8 overpass. The Committee discussed planting native pollinators in the spring and forming a beautification or garden club.

### **C. Public Safety**

Mr. Iassogna reported on the Public Safety and Security Committee meeting that was held on January 31, 2020. The Committee met with Lt. Thomas Minar and Officer Michael Bouchard, and were joined by Tom Lattin and Ernest Brown from the City's graffiti removal team. The guests shared that the Bridgeport Police are purchasing a vehicle with cameras to monitor illegal dumping and graffiti. The Committee expressed its concerns about recent safety incidents in the district and the lack of police presence in the Downtown on weekends and late nights. The group brainstormed a number of ways to directly engage with the Police Department and support entities.

### **D. Special Events and Marketing**

Commissioner Morque reported on the Special Events and Marketing Committee meeting that was held on February 4, 2020. The Committee reviewed the progress and new content of the Colorful Bridgeport campaign, including the newsletter guides and My Colorful Storefront beautification project. Committee members provided updates on upcoming activities with their respective companies and organizations. The Committee discussed the A Pop of Color closing reception, and set plans in place for the Jane's Walk events in May.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Pires called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:59 p.m.