

**CRANFORD DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 13, 2019**

Present:

Joe Colangelo/resident
Tom Connolly/business owner
Anthony Durante/chairman
Tricia Greely/ business owner
Paul LaCorte/property owner
Ashley Legg/resident
Barry O'Donovan/business owner
Margaret Sacco/property owner
Gabe Bailer/Director
Caren Demyen/Administrative Assistant
Michelle Stavrou/Social Media Coordinator

Absent:

Jean Maisonneuve/Township
Commissioner
Kristen Mider/resident
Steve Needle/property owner

Mr. Bailer called the meeting to order at 8:35am. Announcement made that the meeting was posted as required by law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ***Motion to approve April 2019 minutes by Mr. Durante, seconded by Ms. Sacco. Mr. Connolly abstained.***

CHAIRMAN REMARKS – Anthony Durante

- Mr. Durante thanked everyone for their contributions to the DMC. He wanted to share that the Piano at the Plaza event on May 3rd with Joe Regan was a huge success. Mr. Regan brought 7-8 people to sing with him and adults and children alike enjoyed the evening. Mr. Durante heard that Sip & Shop was a great success – it seemed like more people attended then the previous year. Flower planting will be held this Sunday, May 19th at 11am – please bring family and friends to Post Office Plaza to help out if you are free.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Gabe Bailer

Monthly Project Report

- Wifi is up and running. Thanks again to Mr. LaCorte, Lifeline Technology and Mark from ATON for their help. As of today, 385 people have logged in so far. Ribbon cutting was the other week and was posted on social media. Working on a splash page so we can get some sponsors for the wifi.
- Distrx provided a beacon that can be put downtown – currently thinking the piano as the location. The beacons have been delivered to all businesses who have paid their account. Office will follow up with businesses who have not paid. Coordinating when it will be made public – perhaps early June.
- Capital budget approval – we were approved for Eastman Clock step lights, Victorian pole painting and Lot 7 paving. Mr. Bailer is concerned about the timing with the construction – the Plaza will be fully closed for 2 weeks. Mr. Connolly wanted to know if there was a plan for everything that needed to get done – he feels that if it is closed for two weeks there should be a scope. Mr. Bailer assured Mr. Connolly that there is a scope and that everything will get done. Mr. Durante asked about the bike rack installation and Mr. Bailer responded that it is ready to go but they have just been waiting on the weather. Mr. Bailer will email the contracts out to the Board so they can see the scope of the work. Mr. Colangelo mentioned businesses perhaps being upset that work is getting done during the spring and their busy season. He asked if there could be temporary tables and chairs put by some of the stores in that area so people can still sit. Mr. Durante is going to speak to Commissioner Maisonneuve about the idea of closing off Eastman during the construction.
- Bike racks are ready to go for Eastman Plaza and Cranford Bagel. They should be installed later this week.

- We are getting 9 new trees – Lot 7 will get 3 Hawthorne trees, South Avenue will get 3 Gingko trees and in Lot 7 will get 3 Berm trees.
- Piano event in May had a great turnout. Performers are scheduled for the first Friday of the month for June, July and August. Mr. Bailer suggested in the future trying to get sponsors.
- 80's Night movies series – the movie theater has had a great response so far. June will focus on summer movies for kids on Saturdays at 11am.
- Utility box art – had 13 people submit options for the project. Will decide in early June what will go on the wrap with the install happening over the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

- Witch Baby and Cranford Bakery are open – working on a ribbon cutting with Commissioner Maisonneuve.
- Nail Salon on North Union – painted their building a lilac color. Mr. LaCorte feels that everything should go through the DMC office including the color choice of the building for approval. Mr. O'Donovan said that we should have a meeting with Building and other departments so everything goes through the DMC first. Mr. Durante would like to schedule a sit down with Mr. Cryan and Commissioner Maisonneuve to go through the process and address all of the Board's concerns.

BOARD COMMITTEES

- Application Review Committee – Mr. Durante wants to reach out to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the Historic Preservation Board to revisit the SID Ordinance. So far the Planning Board and Preservation Board has agreed to have a representative meet with the DMC.
- Business Development – Business meeting earlier in the month. A few of the owners mentioned parking and traffic concerns in terms of speeding as well as the intersections on North and North Union. Per CPD it was a broken pedestrian light by Cory Matthews that was causing the delay. Mr. Bailer still feels that more has to get done. Mr. Connolly would like to set up a meeting with the Parking Committee to go over concerns. Mr. LaCorte feels that the issue is the bus turnaround that was built a few years ago. Mr. Connolly wants to make sure we stay on top of this until it's resolved.
- Maintenance – Victorian light dimmer installation is 2/3 done per DPW. Mr. Connolly mentioned the curbing on North Avenue needs to be fixed. Three new benches will be added and are ready to go. Mr. Connolly also brought up concerns about Lot 7 and the striping. Mr. Durante mentioned that Lot 7 is getting repaved. Garbage gate is crushed in Lot 7 – it is still an ongoing issue. Mr. Bailer needs to continue the conversation with the township attorney on cancelling the contract with Grand Sanitation and getting the gate fixed.
- Mr. Durante brought up the holiday decorations and coming up with a plan for next season and wants to start the conversation shortly. Mr. Bailer feels that we need a committee that includes the Jaycees and the Newcomers Club. Mr. LaCorte volunteered to be part of the committee and Mr. Colangelo nominated Ms. Mider. Ms. Demyen suggested reaching out to Rekemeiers since a good portion of their business is holiday decorating.

RESERVE

- Logo – Board reviewed color options as well as having an established 1871 date on it. The Board liked versions of the black and gold as well as navy blue options. Overall it was decided how the black and gold version would look on a lighter background. Mr. Durante will share the Board's suggestions with Darcy.
- Post Office Plaza – one proposal was submitted so far. Second proposal should be in shortly. Mr. Connolly wanted to know the status of the proposed designs for Post Office Plaza. Mr. Bailer said we should have the drawings in June. Mr. Durante asked if they could come back to speak to the Board and Mr. Bailer said that he would look into it and follow up.
- Mr. Durante made a motion to spend up to \$5k on tree surround materials. Mr. Colangelo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Motion to adjourn at 9:50am by Mr. Durante. Mr. LaCorte seconded. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,
Caren Demyen, Administrative Assistant