

# BUSINESS COMMITTEE 2019

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21 August 2019 / 10:00 AM / City Manager's Conference Room

## ATTENDEES

Bianca Freda (Co-Chair), Kathy Kelly (Co-Chair), Amy Quinn, (Deputy Mayor), Russell Lewis, Reggie Flimlin, Austin Leopold, Sonia Spina, Phyllis Maffucci

ABSENT: Adam Nelson, Isaac Jones, Larry Dembrun, Jenn Hampton, Jacki Sharpe, Marilyn Schlossbach

GUESTS: Michael Manzella, Chris Zotorski

## AGENDA

### June minutes approved. [no meeting for July]

1. **Mike Manzella - Parklets:** The long-term goal is to transform the downtown; where parklets become a place where people want to come hangout, providing a place to rest and not just park. Creating a mini park that takes the place of a parking space. They are of high quality made by Parkways company. Love the engineering of it. Feedback is good on Cookman Ave. People feel it's bringing business that block.

Donor willing to donate ½ of up to (two) parklets. City has to match cost. Forward thinking of Cookman Ave and downtown. Will make the downtown more vibrant. Will lose two more parking spaces downtown. Cost 12,000. Each to build. Cost to city 12,000. If we do two.

- Do we want them?
- How can we pay for them, where will the funds come from?

There are 100's of them in NYC, where a single business will sponsor with advertising on the parklet. Are they movable? Yes. They will have wheels on them. All the pieces are movable, with casters.

How long does it stay out? Through the fall, it will be stored for the winter. Bikes stay out, scooters will be stored for winter as well.

Sonia asked about doing a survey Monkey to the local business. Kathy would prefer to speak to people to see how they feel about it.

**2. Sub-Committee Report - Pie In The Sky:** Russell and Reggie reported on meeting with Freeholder Thomas Arnone. Outcome was to organize a meeting with the mayors who are initiating one seat rides from NY. Discussion was focused on vehicular traffic and parking. Mike Manzella had prepared an informative PowerPoint presentation. Response from Arnone: [Wow, impressed and I have to respond so the response was to have a collaboration of Mayors and maybe we should be part of that.] He is going to reach out to them and join in on a collaborative to increase diesel/electric or full electric, which is what we are pushing for. Will need support of Vin Gopal once we get to the state level. Our mission/goal is to keep people coming and sustain what we have. Not trying to bring more people, just need to sustain what we've got.

Current train service - Electric stops in Long Branch, diesel starts after that. We need either hybrids or all electric. Dual powered that would continue from the beginning. He was surprised that there is no public transportation from Philly to Asbury Park.

There is another market in Philly that can come to Asbury park, art scene. Need direct buses from Philly to Asbury.

**3. Sub-committee Report - Boots on the ground:** Kathy and Bianca sent out survey to businesses if they would be interested in an end of summer party; sidewalk sale of some sort held in Kennedy Park, with DJ, dunk tank, vendors and tents. People seemed interested.

Also, wants to do a 'cook off' on the westside, something that brings people to that side of town. Chili cook offs are easy to do. Participants can vote, etc.... Any business could participate. Logistics; would need electricity. Kennedy and Springwood Park both have electricity.

**4. Fall Plans** - Not sure if Zombie walk is happening this year. Always the first Saturday in October. Last year it was not properly organized. Businesses were not happy about the route... Sylvia will confirm whether it's happening or not. Last year traffic was rerouted. Lack of communication about the change in route, people were going down the old route.

Zombie walk has been here for 11 years. Has become more of a pub crawl. Need to figure out a way for businesses to benefit from it..

Upcoming event on October 16<sup>th</sup>, Committee, Commission and Boards information session will take place at Springwood Community Center - who will be speaking? Kathy and Bianca will man the booth and Phyllis will give presentation.

Comments: Don't have a full representation of the city on the committees...

Sonia needs 2020 meeting dates - committee will stick to Wednesdays at 10 am. Cancel July.

5. **Public Portion** - Discussion on Scooters: Lot's of chatter on Nextdoor regarding speeding, reckless use, underage use, safety hazard, etc. Comments were also made about the convenience of use and young people, (20 somethings) using them responsibly. kids going back to school soon, novelty will wear off...

Response from City - speed has been reduced from 15 mph to 12 mph. to be continued...

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Kathy and Bianca will reach out to the businesses in town to see if they would like to have another parklet and would they be willing to pay/contribute towards it. (sponsor it).

B. Russel will follow up with Arnone in September.

C. Sylvia / Sonia will follow up on application for Zombie Walk with Special Events and report back to committee.

Meeting Adjourned @ 11:07 am (minutes by Phyllis Maffucci)

**Next Meeting Date September 18th, 2019 @ 10 am.**