**BID Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 28, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Shelly, Stepaine, Gail, Kelsey, Brian, Leanne, Pat, Tammy H., Rachael, Akari, Glenn, Shannon, and Zack

**Absent:** Sara, Carrie, Tammy S., Michelle

**Call to Order:** 8:37 AM

Zack called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 2025:**

Pat motioned to approve the minutes, Glenn seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Glenn spoke briefly about the financials. There were no questions about items but he mentioned to email him if any arise. Shannon wanted to note that she will no longer have to transfer funds between the Operating and Events accounts so these will no longer appear as “Other Expenses” going forward.

**Committee Report:**

The Cider Walk was scheduled for June but only 4 businesses could participate because of employee scheduling. There were too many conflicts with sports events, graduations, and other things going on for many people so it will now go on the calendar for August if possible.

Wine Walk is still a go for the first Saturday in October. Themes for the walk have been posted on social media for voting. As of now, the Buffalo Bills theme is in the lead. Zack mentioned that by then the Open Container Law should be in effect by then, making Shannon’s life easier going forward for organizing with the SLA.

This brought up a discussion about the City Council being held at 7 pm this evening where it will be open for public comment on the proposal. Rachael encouraged anyone who wanted to attend and speak to sign up in the Clerk’s office or to sing in with Heidi Parker when you get to the meeting. The last meeting when it was proposed was met with mostly positive responses. Bob Bialkowski requested that several council members refrain from voting because of a conflict with their BID membership. Rachael asked and the only one who would have a conflict was Derek.

The comments on FB after the last Council meeting where it was proposed were quite negative. We all agreed that the commenters online are generally the same people over and over.

The overall expectation of the new law is that not much will change on a daily basis, but believe that overall, the downtown will pick up in a positive way.

**Director’s Report:**

Shannon wanted to welcome Kelsey Dilcher as our newest Board member. Kelsey is the head of Marketing at TVFCU and has been a wonderful asset to the BID with her volunteer work over the past three years. We look forward to hearing new ideas from her!

**Chamber Report:**

Brian mentioned a lot of news with the County Chamber. The opportunity to bring up new ideas and recommendations for the branding project is coming to a close. You have until the end of the month to get your ideas in.

Upcoming events are:

* June 26th will be the next Business After Hours to be held at The Beauty Lounge by Meraki
* July 16th is the 53rd Golf & Bocce Outing at Batavia Country Club. There is still time to get a team together and play
* July 24th is the next Lunch Linkup at Terry Hills

**City Update:**

Not much to update, per Rachael. The Brisbane Mansion RFPs are due Friday. Though just outside of the BID District it’s very close. The City is hopeful that a boutique hotel or other business will move in.

There are new owners of the Continental Building. They received an Anchor Grant and have begun fixing it up.

The City is preparing a second DRI application and they are still looking for projects to include in the proposal. Applications are due in the Fall. This time the area to be part of the grant will hug the original area of the map – concentrating on Ellicott Street over toward the Creek behind the County Building.

The City Centre/Mall continues to improve on a regular basis. The object for the future is to have a mixed use event space once all upgrades are complete.

Shannon had a question – are businesses going into the mall spaces allowed to decorate their spaces? Do they have guidelines to follow to make them uniform?

Rachel answered that currently there are no guidelines but they hope to come up with them eventually – like a cohesive color palette, etc – to make them look good.

Zack also mentioned that he would like to see a continuation of the summer concert series to take place all year and utilize the City Centre as the venue. There was talk of a stage and that ordering a removable one would be best, since a built in one was just removed. The stage could be rented for events and produce income.

There was another discussion about purchasing a sound system for the Jackson Square area since there currently isn’t one and most bands that perform have an additional charge for bringing their own. This led to a discussion about the WiFi issue and playing music in the walkways downtown. It has been a mentioned several times in the past but the Wifi project – to bring free wifi access to city streets – hit a snag with Empire. The BID contracted with them to provide the service, which they never completed because there were issues with it working. Agreements were signed but there was a lot of mishandling of the set up on Empire’s part. The BID eventually agreed to pay for half of the contract after discussing it with Peter Casey but the remainder of the project never moved forward, but a discussion was started about contacting a different company to take over.

Zack asked if the BID should look into getting the speakers and sound system for Jackson Square. Pat motioned, Tammy seconded and all approved.

Our last discussion was brought up by Shelly. She brought up an article in the Batavia Daily News or The Batavian that reported on illicit drug use and urged residents to report it if they see any. As the only state licensed marijuana dealer in the city, she is concerned by the number of local store that appear to be selling it illegally. She counts 7 stores that are doing so. Rachel and Tammy stopped at most of them and did see illegal items being sold and they reported them.

Shannon mentioned to Shelly that she should contact Brian Frieday who is head of the Sheriff’s Drug Taskforce to have a conversation with him about it.

Shelly’s point was to educate us all, and the community, about the sale of illegal drugs. Just because it is legal now in NYS does not mean that any sale is legal. Businesses must follow strict procedures that are expensive to obtain and maintain in order to get a license. All of the other stores are operating illegally and should be treated that way, not ignored.

Meeting was called at 9:38.