

# MONTCLAIR CENTER **BID**

BID office, March 4, 2015

Members in attendance: Phil Cantor, Israel Cronk, Michael Gillespie, Lisa Johnson, Debbie Santiago, Sue Schultz, Matt Silverman, Joann Smalls, Jerry Sweeney and Robert Weber. Also in attendance, Luther Flurry.

A quorum arrived and was called to order at 7:41 by Phil Cantor.

Minutes from January 7 Meeting were corrected by Sue S, changing the word Hahnes to Hinke. A motion to accept minutes as corrected was made by Michael G, and seconded by Sue. It passed unanimous.

Jerry Sweeney had a process question about the January election and board appointments. He moved that we re-confirm and ratify the appointment of the elections from January 7. The motion was seconded by Michael G and unanimously passed.

Jerry Sweeney noted that our case with Kennedy is not over. It has been decided that OPRA is applicable, but it is not clear whether OPRA was violated. We are hiring an outside attorney. To get to the recommendation we: Jerry collected referrals; researched the recommended attorneys, spoke to four firms; then Luther and Phil spoke to the top two firms; and Eric Bernstein & Associates stood out. They will look to bring this matter to efficient closure. Tonight we are seeking ratification of the decision to hire Eric Bernstein & Associates to bring the Kennedy suit and settlement to closure and follow up on new or ongoing OPRA issues. Jerry highly recommends this firm and when he mentioned his recommendation to our second choice, they also endorsed Eric Bernstein. Fees will be on an hourly basis for \$135 per hour. Luther and Phil spoke with two of the candidates and support Jerry's recommendation. Jerry is continuing to provide pro bono services on this matter. Jerry moved that we hire Eric Bernstein and Associates, Robert W seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Phil C noted that the National Main Street Conference was at the end of the month, and broadly hinted that we will receive the Great American Main Street Award—the highest national recognition for programs and downtowns such as ours. Because of the conference timing, the April Board meeting is moved to April 8.

Minutes, March 4, 2015  
Montclair BID Board Meeting

Organizational update: Michael G noted that the Museums' First Thursday is tomorrow (March 5) and they have a new sponsor— TD Bank. Montclair Art Museum won the Discover Jersey Arts People's Choice Award in two categories, and the Montclair Film Festival won as well.

MFF is coming up. Are there ways to improve our relations and successes with the fest? Windows? Lights? Staying open? Debbie S suggested classic movies? Jerry S suggested discounts for attendees. Phil maybe this conversation belongs in committee. We should suggest restaurants offer quick bites for Film Fest.

At 8:26 Lisa J moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Jerry S and passed unanimously. Next meeting is April 8.

Updates, March 4, 2015  
Montclair BID Board Meeting

## **Updates**

### **Staffing**

We have a new Assistant, who should start, part time, tomorrow afternoon and full time in late April. Alescia Peyton has retail, administrative and marketing experience. I look forward to working with her, and I think she will be a great addition to the team.

### **Events**

Our next scheduled event is Ladies Night Out in March. March 20. You should have seen the banners and posters by now. This is the first time we have used banners like this. We hope to see a big difference in awareness and attendance.

Montclair Center Stage starts on April 25

Montclair Film Festival is May 1-May 10.

### **Recognition**

National Main Street Conference will be in Atlanta March 30-April 2. Where we expect to hear good news about the Great American Main Street Award.

Montclair Art Museum and Montclair Film Festival were both chosen for Discover Jersey Arts People's Choice awards. The museums was named favorite place for an adult art class and favorite kids art camp. MFF was named favorite Film Festival. Unfortunately, Red Bank narrowly beat out Montclair for favorite downtown arts district (and we were ahead of Morristown by a whisker).