

# MONTCLAIR CENTER **BID**

Phil Cantor Photography, 26 Lackawanna Plaza

October 7, 2015

7:00 pm

Present: Phil Cantor, Michael Gillespie, Lisa Johnson, Debbie Masel, Rich McMahon, Sharda Ramharack, Sue Schultz, Joann Smalls, Sean M Spiller, Gerald Sweeney, Robert Weber

Absent: Renee Baskerville, Israel Cronk, Arlene Carrini, Diane E Israel, Guy Kinley, Matt Silverman,

## **Minutes**

Phil called the meeting to order at 7:07. There were no guests for public comment.

September Minutes were unanimously approved.

Robert gave the Treasurer's report with nine months actual. In broad terms we expect to end the year with a tiny surplus. Legal fees are projected to be \$35,000 over budget, which is offset by reducing investment in capital and reserves, and savings from a partial year vacancy in the office. There were a number of smaller variances in our expenses from budget, mostly prompted by additional expenses associated with winning the Great American Main Street Award this year.

Robert noted that we will be working on the budget in the coming month. Volunteers for the budget committee included Robert (chair), Phil, Jerry, Sue, Debbie, Lisa, Joann and Michael.

Debbie reported on the Retailers' Committee. Switching the main meeting to evening hours has substantially increased attendance and engagement. Thank you to Bangz and Just Kidding Around for hosting. The first meeting resulted in several ideas and volunteers to help execute the ideas. The second meeting will be on October 14 where holiday plans will be discussed. Jerry noted that the Retailers' Committee should focus on needs and priorities for 2016, as it is budget season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

## **Updates:**

### **Events:**

- Music on **Montclair Center Stage** ended September 26. It was a great year that garnered praise from both the public and the arts community. Special thanks to Joann for leading this initiative.
- **Farmers' Market** on Tuesdays will continue for 3 more weeks. There is only one vendor, an organic farmer, and he has moved to the sidewalk. No traffic is affected, though some parking is lost. We are in conversations with the Montclair Farmers' Market keep the scale next year to one that will fit on the sidewalk.
- **Touch a Truck** was Saturday, September 12. It was a great warm fuzzy community event, and a successful first fundraiser. We had about 1,000 paying customers, and a great word of mouth.
- **Open Streets MTC** was on September 27. This event, co-sponsored by Bike Walk Montclair (BMW) and the township of Montclair did not bring as much traffic as expected, but merchants on Glen Ridge and Church both report nice sales that day.
- **Ladies Night Out** has been moved due to weather to October 16. It will run at the same time as **Art Walk**.
- **Montclair Fashion Night, Holiday Preview** will be 11/15 at the Wellmont.

### **Meetings**

- There was a small meeting with Charles Brown of the Voorhies Transportation institute to discuss a **cost benefit study of a lane diet** on Bloomfield Avenue in Montclair. The study should be completed in December.
- Donald Shoup, author of **The High Cost of Free Parking** gave a great lecture at Rutgers University.

### **Downtown Re-Development**

- The **Seymour Street Redevelopment/Social Security Building** area will have a visioning workshop on October 15. The master plan calls for this area to have an arts focus. Studio Montclair is hoping that there will be dedicated gallery space. Others want a performance space or senior center.
- **The Wellmont Theater** has re-opened. Their first big concert, Korn was last night.
- **A Better Bloomfield Avenue** The BID will partner with local pedestrian safety advocacy groups on a Ped Safety campaign. We expect Safety to be the most compelling argument for politicians to support a Complete Streets implementation on Bloomfield Avenue.