

MONTCLAIR CENTER BID

GREAT AMERICAN MAIN STREET AWARD WINNER 2015

Montclair Center BID - Board Meeting

December 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

In Person at **Montclair House Grill** or via [Zoom](#)

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME(3 Minutes)

Board Members in attendance: Ernst Goldman, Jacob Nieman, Jaji Packard, Matt Silverman, Brian Silver, Daniel Garcia-Pedrosa, George Brennan, Nat Testa, Matt Horrigan, Natalie Haddad, Karen Schloss-Diaz, Neil Grabowsky

Board Members attending via Zoom:, Rachael Grochowski, Mary Cumella, Te'Nijah Bussey

Staff: Lauren Barnas, Amanda Dean, Alex Brosseau

Absent: David Placek, Aminah Toler, Rahum Williams

Public: Genevieve Wrenn, Joann Smalls, Amir Kamal, Deborah Stymest (Zoom), Jeremy Powhlotanna, Jason Gleason, Lisa Batitto (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

II. ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER MINUTES (*attachments A*)

Adoption of the November Board minutes has been approved, motioned by Vice President Silverman, seconded by Treasurer Silver.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeremy Powhlotanna of Downtown Montclair spoke about the upcoming Porchfest and requesting the BID's help with the next festival. There will be a large scale finale with a high-profile act, hosting it in the Downtown boundaries. He is also requesting sanitation cleanup post-event. If accepted, the BID would have various sponsorship rewards. The executive committee is open to discussion.

Genevieve Wrenn spoke about Abhishake's departure and expressed appreciation for all the great work he's done for her businesses as well as all the work he did for the Pride Festival.

Joann Smalls also spoke about Abhishake's absence and how helpful he was. She also suggested the option to table the recent large-scale organizational decisions in order to include the opinions and insight of the new board members.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (*Ernst Goldman*)

A. Executive Director transition

Board President Goldman announced Executive Director Abhishake's departure and thanked Assistant Director Amanda Dean for her help during the transition. Vice president Silverman announced that Jason Gleason will be returning to the BID as his newly created People and Places LLC, aiding with executive and oversight duties for 3-9 months. Jason spoke about his experience and how it can help in the short term. Vice President Silverman responded to Jeremy Powhlotanna's inquiry about the scope of Jason's role, stating that Jason will be addressing the role and responsibilities of Executive Director.

B. Year in Review Report - moved to January/February

The year in review will be moved to January.

V. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (*Amanda Dean*)

A. Church Street Tree Lighting

Assistant Director Dean spoke about the success of the Church St Tree Lighting this past weekend and praised the characters, performers, and gifts given for every child. Vice President Silverman spoke about the success of this event being the BID's and Downtown Montclair's first co-sponsored event.

B. Winter Wonderland/Small Business Saturday - update

Assistant Director Dean also gave a recap of Winter Wonderland and Small Business Saturday with performances from Vanguard Theater Company and Jazz House Kids plus photo opportunities with The Grinch, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Tinsel the Elf, and more. She recounts high foot traffic and plenty of activities for children to do throughout the day.

C. Stakeholder survey

Assistant Director Dean recapped the Rutgers University Public Policy grad program partnership. The grad students created a survey to get a better understanding of the perception of the BID and tabled the survey on Church St, getting over 200 responses- with an overall positive impression of the BID.

D. NJTIA Conference

The staff attended the NJTIA conference the week of the 9th-11th- highlights include visitor economy lectures, agritourism panels, FIFA World Cup community support. The conference also acted as their Annual Meeting- where Alex Brosseau was sworn in on the NJTIA Board. We see an opportunity to utilize our location in North Jersey as a way to connect with other DMOs.

VI. TREASURER REPORT

A. Final 2026 budget presentation (*attachment B*) - VOTE

Board Member Silver reviewed the finalized budget with the intention to vote on it tonight. There was changes made to the DMO and Main Street grants. Banner maintenance will also be a priority in this budget to fix worn down banners. Board Member Silver noted that a chunk of the \$237,000 will be used for advertising to help the businesses and downtown. He also noted that we have extra money rolling over to next year due to not having an Assistant Director for the majority of 2025. Board Packard moves to pass the budget, With Board Member Garcia-Pedrosa seconding it.

VII. RECRUITMENT, NOMINATION, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (Daniel Garcia-Pedrosa)

A. Review of 2026 Ballot for Election of Directors (*attachment C*)

B. Results of the district-wide election of candidates to the board of directors

Board Member Garcia-Pedrosa shared the results of the 2026 Board Member Election. There was a total of 116 ballots cast. Included in the Board Agenda Packet includes officer roles and committee descriptions.

C. Orientation for new board members

President Goldman will be coordinating new board member onboarding efforts the first week of January.

D. Officer elections in January - position descriptions attached (*attachment D*)

Board Member Garcia Pedrosa gave an overview of the officer's positions. A survey will go out to all board members either self-nominate or nominate others. Friday January 9th will be the deadline for nominations. Between then and the next board meeting on January 21st the committee will deliberate on a final list of nominees for the ballot.

E. THANK YOU to Departing Board Members

Vice President Silverman thanked all departing board members for their service and dedication to the BID.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS A. Revised Bylaw's Motion (*attachment E*) - VOTE

Vice President Silverman reviewed the amended bylaws that are up for vote. He highlighted a new HR committee and Audit committee that were added to the bylaws. Further updates needed to the bylaws will be discussed with the committee as needed. The bylaws have passed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS A. 2026 Committees - descriptions (*attachment F*)

B. Executive Sessions - planned for 2026

Vice President Silverman announced a space for Executive Session to be a bullet point on the Board Meeting Agendas going forward.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION - New Ideas, Comments, Questions

ADJOURNMENT- HAPPY HOLIDAYS

President Goldman moved to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Horrigan seconded it.

Next full board meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 7 pm at the MC BID office