

Richmond Corridor Association (RCA) General Meeting
PhilaPort (PRPA)
Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

Attendance: David Fecteau (City Planning Commission), Joe Fenton (Tioga Pipe Co.), Greg Winkler (Tommy D's Home Improvement Center), Michael Marrone (Liguori Academy), Javier Mojica (City Commerce Dept.), Tummona Fisher (PhilaPort), Ed Kradoska (JECA Corp.), Steve Horton (RCA-NEDS)

The Meeting was convened at 8:55am.

The September Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted remotely by Bruce Richman. The Bank Account has been transferred to Port Richmond Savings Bank. The Balance is: **\$12,163.38.**

Committee Reports:

Safety/Security: The 24th Police District was not present. A couple of the attendees mentioned the abandoned Salvation Army building continues to pose a major safety problem in the neighborhood. Members are encouraged to regularly report activities through the "911" System & the Police Website Roll Call complaints.

Membership: This is the time to renew all 2020 memberships. Everyone was asked to speak with their business neighbors about RCA. Steve Horton continues to reach out to firms each month to encourage them to attend our meetings & become active in RCA.

Strategic Plan: No Updates. The current 5 Year Plan is posted on the Website. Everyone was encouraged to review it. New Ideas are always welcome, as RCA creates a new brief update of the Plan.

Media/Public Relations: For I-95 Reconstruction Project Updates, Check: (www.95revive.com).

Website: Everyone was encouraged to regularly monitor RCA Information: (www.rcassociation.org). The Meeting Minutes, Membership Forms & Business Resources information continue to be posted, and are available for review. The information is downloadable for further follow up directly with Agency contacts.

CLIP/Infrastructure Report:

Current Issues reported for Agencies followup:

3700 Coral St: Shortdumping site

Richmond & Tioga Sts: Intersection traffic safety & signage

Richmond & Ontario Sts: PECO Telephone Pole repair-replacement

CLIP/Infrastructure Report:

2500 E. Butler St: replacing No Parking Signs
2600 E. Tioga St: PGW improvement project work

Direct Issues & Concerns to: “311” (Calls accepted Mon.-Fri.: 8am-8pm and E-Mails accepted 24hrs.-7days a week at: (philly311@phila.gov)). Record the Tracking (Case) number. RCA & CLIP will follow up.

All businesses and residents are encouraged to continue reporting the chronic Shortdumping sites throughout the neighborhood.

Old Business:

Business Security Camera Program (SafeCam) For information contact: **Maxine Ferguson**, Commerce Dept. @ (215) 683-2047 & maxine.ferguson@phila.gov.

Energetek continues to provide comprehensive services and customized plans to review, navigate and access the various energy tax incentives, credits and other program resources. RCA companies who have utilized their services include: Neatsfoot Oil, Coating Development Group and CSS international. For more information contact: **Eva Gerrits & Kristin DeBias, Energetek @ weare@energetek.biz**.

Impact Loan Fund continues to provide neighborhood businesses access to capital. RCA is located within the Loan target area. These financial resources can be used for a range of needs including, but not limited to, equipment, inventory, building-facility improvements & repairs along with general working capital. The Loan interest rates are competitive, and Loan Terms negotiated on a case-by-case basis. An updated description is posted on the RCA Website. For more information contact: **Caitlin Rozman @ (215) 739-1600 ex.137, (215) 651-4124 & crozman@impactservices.org**.

New Business:

Michael Marrone provided an update on Liguori Academy. The School opened its doors to the community in 2016. The Staff provide the students with a unique educational opportunity. The mission is: “We are committed to making our students...our future citizens...understand that their hard work offers them boundless opportunities”. Liguori Academy is seeking Tax Credit partners to support its various activities. Businesses can support the School through Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) & Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC) These Programs are administered through the Pa. Department of Community & Economic Development (DECD). For more information, contact Michael Marrone @ (267) 571-1952 & mmarrone@liguoriacademy.org.

Javier Mojica, Philadelphia Commerce Dept., provided information packets and updates on various Business Resources and Programs available to businesses through the City and several Partner Organizations. It was announced that the BSCP is on a temporary hold, until more Funds become available. For more Commerce Dept. updates contact: **javier.mojica@phila.gov & (215) 683-2170**.

David Fecteau, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, provided updates on some of the area infrastructure projects. This news included the Federal Government has approved the continued expansion of North Delaware Ave. between Orthodox & Buckius Sts. The next step will be work on the overall Roadway design. While that proceeds the City & State will work on gaining site control for the right-of-way. The future long term goal of the Project is to extend North Delaware Ave. to Bridge St. and eventually to Tacony. St. There was also a brief discussion on the importance to connect East Ontario St. to N. Delaware Ave. While there are a number of challenges, RCA is strongly committed seeing this Project completed. In another update, the Task Force for Scrap Yards has been reactivated. For more information on all City Planning Commission initiatives contact: david.fecteau@phila.gov & (215) 683-4670.

Business Updates & Announcements:

Tummona Fisher, PhilaPort, provided an update on PhilaPort Projects. The Port & Glovis America Inc. celebrated the opening of the Southport Auto Terminal & Vehicle Processing Facility. This Project represents an investment of \$110 million investment on the 155 acre site.

Also, Tioga Terminal is continuing the construction the 100,000 Sq. ft. warehouse for Forest Products. Features on-site include: clear span high ceilings & indoor rail and truck loading. This Port Project represents a \$12 million investment.

Greg Winkler, Tommy D's Home Improvement Center, gave the attendees information about the Philadelphia Home Now Program. This joint effort is funded by the Philadelphia Office of Housing & Community (OHCD) and administered by the Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC). The Program is an employers assisted housing initiative. For more information contact: Jojy Varghese @ jvarghese@uac.org & (215) 851-1738.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted by Steve Horton