

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

March 11, 2020

Attendance: Greg Winkler (Tommy D's Home Improvement Center, Tummona Fisher (PhilaPort), Ed Kradoska (JECA Corp.), Michael Marrone (Liguori Academy), Kristin DeBias (Energetek), Steve Horton (RCA-NEDS)

The Meeting was convened at 9:05am.

The January Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted remotely by Bruce Richman. The Account is held in the Port Richmond Savings Bank. This month, the Annual Directors & Officers Liability Insurance Policy of \$825.00, was paid. The current Balance is: **\$10,792.51.**

Committee Reports:

Safety/Security: The 24th Police District was not present. Members are encouraged to regularly report Emergency activities through the "911" System. For Non-Emergencies & Roll Call Alerts: Contact the 24th PD directly at **(215) 686-3240**. RCA is located within the Police Service Area (PSA) #3.

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). For ongoing Project information contact : **Pamela Conti, Project Manager (215) 209-1249 & c-pconti@pa.gov.**

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. New & Updated Information are always welcome, for posting on the Website.

Old Business:

CLIP/Infrastructure Contacts:

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 help follow up. All businesses and residents are encouraged to continue reporting the chronic Shortdumping sites & other problems & issues throughout the neighborhood.

A “311” Report was made on February 27th. Tracking Number-Case Number #13196445. There currently are several abandoned Vehicles left on the 3000 block of East Ontario St. over the past few months. This includes (2) Camping Trailers, (2) 53 ft. Cargo Trailers and (1) Passenger Bus. A request was made to the 24th Police District to get the help form the PD Neighborhood Services Unit to resolve the situation.

The ongoing issue with damaged PECO Utility Pole located at Richmond & Ontario Streets still needs to be resolved. Requests for help continue to be made to PECO.

Business Security Camera Program (SafeCam): The Philadelphia Commrce Dept. continues to provide financial assistance to City Businesses who would like to install Video Surveillance on Building exteriors. For information contact:

Maxine Ferguson, Commerce Dept. at (215) 683-2047 & maxine.ferguson@phila.gov.

Impact Loan Fund: They continue to provide neighborhood businesses access to capital. RCA is located within the Loan target area. These financial resources can 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, Impact at (215) 739-1600 ex.137, (215) 651-4124 & crozman@impactservices.org.

Philadelphia City Planning Commssion: For various updates and more information please contact:

David Fecteau, City Panning at david.fecteau@phila.gov & (215) 683-4670

Philadelphia Office of Housing & Community Development (OHCD): Philadelphia Home Buy Now Program (Employers Assisted Housing Initiative). For more details and further information contact:

Joey Varghese, Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC) at jvarghese@uac.org & (215) 851-1738.

Philadelphia Commerce Dept: Business Resources and Programs continue to be available to businesses through the City and several Partner Organizations.

For more information contact:

Javier Mojica, Commerce Dept. at javier.mojica@phila.gov & (215) 683-2170.

New Business:

Kristin DeBias of Energetek provided a detailed update on their services. They work closely with a wide array of businesses & organizations to help clients secure significant savings on their overall energy expenses. Their firm continues to provide a comprehensive & customized plan to review, navigate and gain access to various tax incentives, credits, rebates and other program resources. This includes a Sales Tax Exemptions for Manufacturing Firms and Comparing Peak & Off-Peak energy cost comparisons. RCA Firms taking advantage of this unique opportunity include: S.D. Richman, Nupro Industries (Neatsfoot Oil), CSS International and VIP Products Corp. For more information contact:

Kristin DeBias, Energetek at kristin@energetek.biz.

Michael Marrone, Liguori Academy gave updates on the School. The School, established in 2016, is currently within the Impact Services Building, 1952 East Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pa 19134. They will be relocated to a larger Facility within the old St. Anne's School, 2328 East Lehigh Ave. Philadelphia, Pa 19125. This will require building renovations.

Liguori Academy is seeking Tax Credit partners to support overall educational costs. The current annual tuition is \$12,500. Virtually all of the Students need financial assistance in order to attend. Businesses can support the School through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) & Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC). Several Businesses can join together to make their contributions. These Programs are administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (Pa. DCED). For more information contact:

Michael Marrone, Liguori at mmarrone@liguoriacademy.org & (267) 571-1952.

Business Roundtable Announcements:

Everyone was encouraged to closely monitor the Corona Virus-Covid 19 situation. Please continue to regularly check all Media Outlets for regular updates & local actions.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted by Steve Horton