



Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2015

PRESENT: Rich Hoffman (RH), HR Benjamin Board President
Joe Mellon (JM), Penske Truck Leasing Vice President
Joseph Bennett (JB) PTR Baler Vice President
Cara Rossi (CR), M&T Bank Vice President
Jennifer Ramos (JR), Grip Flex Corp Vice President
Steve Jurash (SJ), MAP Vice President
Denis Murphy (DM), Commerce Dept., Philadelphia
Matt Mullin, (MM), Philadelphia Managing Director's Office
Bow Lewis (BL), Pride District Manager

RH called the general meeting to order, 10:00 am. Introductions.

1. March 10th meeting minutes distributed. R Hoffman motioned for approval, JR second, motion carried.
2. MM noted his crew is up and running. Power washers are continuously out with the nicer weather. BL reported an abundance of trash piling up on the 2200 block of East Westmoreland Street. There is a lot located next to Penske towards the rear, adjacent to the parking lot near the railroad underpass. The volunteers from the City's Annual Spring Clean-Up attempted to remove the trash but the amount was just too much. JM reported the area has a lot of drug activity, dumping of appliances, furniture, and is a real eye sore. RH reported a growing issue of tires being dumped on the NE & NW corners of Sepviva Street approximately 5-10 ft from Castor Ave. MM noted he will do what he can to clean up both areas.
3. BL distributed copies of the reconciliation report. Regarding the camera systems and storm water projects, Pride has been reimbursed 100%. The invoices for the 2015 Tax Assessments have been mailed. Invoices sent via email will be sent by the end of the week. To date, the collections from liens are \$20,709. City Line Abstract will be sending in an additional \$1300 for 3315 E. Tulip Street. There is a meeting scheduled on April 24th with Councilman Squilla, BL, PL, and SJ to attend to discuss capital, sustainability, and growth options for the Pride District to extend past 2017 when the District is up for reauthorization. BL has the Special Contracts Grant from the city. After today's meeting BL, RH, and DM will review and sign. During the Clean Up it was noticed two of the District's underpass signs have been marked with graffiti. BL will reach out to Illuminated Signs to see what can be done to remove the graffiti without having to replace the signs. The sign located on Westmoreland was recently replaced but has a laminate coating for easier cleaning. MM will send his crew to inspect all underpass signs. Northeastern hospital was also marked with graffiti. The District Clean Up went fantastic, a big thank you to Jen & Joe of Grip Flex for providing the BBQ refreshments and lounge area to the 25 volunteers who participated. There were some confusion/communication issues regarding the student volunteers from Memphis St. Academy. It is believed they participated in the K&A District. This actually worked out better because the supplies from the City were inadequate and the District was well covered with the

- amount of volunteers that did attend. Thank you to MM that had crews cleaning the underpass areas. The District is very clean aside from the new graffiti issues that will be taken care of. The next Pride meeting will be held at Penske May 12th at 10am, 2215 E. Westmoreland Street.
4. BL reporting for Rolando who is attending another meeting. There were 119 trash bags collected, 2 short dumps reported, and 10 incidents reported by the safety ambassadors.
 5. BL reporting for PL who is away on vacation: The accounts have been broken down to show multiple years of assessments received to show collection efforts appropriately. 2015 Tax Assessments have started to come in. The balance sheet is showing two checking accounts because PL has opened an account with M&T Bank. The four authorized signers are RH, PL, JR, and JB. Once everything clears the Citizens account, the account will be closed. All funds will then be held with M&T.
 6. MM requested pictures from JM of the trash accumulation on Westmoreland St to determine how much equipment is needed to clean the area. JB reported the excess of dog feces in the Pride dog park on the corner of Tulip and Ontario; perhaps the lack of bags readily available on location has contributed to the soiled park. PIDC still holds the land but it is unknown who is responsible to replace the bags to deter dog feces left behind. MM reported bags were available years ago through a grant but replacement stopped when the funding ran out. RH mentioned bags are often stolen and offered funding to have someone local to clean and maintain the park. SJ supports MM mention of planting vegetable seeds and suggests turning the park into a community vegetable garden where the community can benefit. RH feels it would not be adequately maintained but supports looking into the idea. SJ feels if the community is benefiting from the garden they would need to take ownership of the project. BL will reach out to community organizations for feedback. DM suggested a written term agreement should the project fail; control would be resumed by Pride. RH mentioned for PL, Pride will continue to retain Zinman as CPA for Pride with fees capped at \$595.
 7. RH inquired about the City's ability to maintain their funding contribution. DM reported funding decisions rely on City Council to allocate general funds, but other members of Council (Sanchez and Henon) have talked about setting aside funds for cleaning which will help the Commerce Department as their current allocation for funds are strictly for use commercial use to stress to Squilla Pride is not eligible for this funding. Commerce funding is Federal funding from HUD with strict rules that require funds are allocated to retail areas that provide goods and services. RL inquired about the CDC Tax Credit. DM confirmed Pride is not eligible due to the fund matching requirement which recently was raised from 80K to \$100K. RL inquired about the storm water project. SJ confirmed the offer from the Water Dept in exchange for the remediation was not a huge benefit; however, ISS Management is looking into a joint remediation of several adjoining properties, (PTR, Wickwire, and Dominic Merano's property). A meeting is set to take place this week with the property owners. DM is looking into a State Tax Credit (currently suspended pending state budget), the Neighborhood Assistance program, for possible Pride funding. He believes the funding available is up to \$50k of matching funds of \$.80 on \$1.
 8. Next Meeting May 12th at 10A.M. Penske Trucking 2215 E. Westmoreland Street
 9. Adjourn 10:40 am