

DOWNTOWN MILFORD, INC. BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Irv Ambrose, Brad Dennehy, Mark Dissinger, Paige Evers, SaraKate Hammer, Walt Hepford, Pat Sparks, Bob Starkey

DMI DIRECTOR: Lee Nelson

DMI ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Erica Rae Lokai

Excused: Lisa Fitzgerald

Guests: Melissa Pingue

Committee reports submitted to Board members prior to the May 7, 2015 Board Meeting, and additional handouts distributed at the May 7, 2015 meeting, are to be included in the master file of the Board Meeting minutes with a copy of the April 9, 2015 minutes located in the DMI office.

Board President SaraKate Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

- A proposal was presented by the Farmer's Market Committee to purchase a new, larger shed to replace the existing shed. A brief discussion was held about increasing the vendor rate to help defray the expense as well as getting approval from the City for the larger size. A motion was made, seconded and approved by Board members in attendance to accept the proposal and allot the necessary funds.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 9, 2015 Board meeting minutes. Board members present approved.

President's Report: SaraKate Hammer

- Board members are asked to give consideration to nominees for the Board of Directors for the elections to take place in November. Candidates' names should be submitted to Vice President Irv Ambrose by mid-September to October so that potential nominees can be approached in a timely manner.
- The City is working with DEDO to develop a Downtown Master Plan. DMI will be a key partner in this process as well as other stakeholders in the City of Milford.
- The President brought up the need for a Community Engagement Fund to be used by the Economic Restructuring Committee to engage businesses, volunteers, and organizations in conversation about Downtown Milford, Inc. It falls within the authority of the President to set aside funds for this; this was for information only.
- Art Strolls in Delaware is a new ezine which is edited by Milford's own Anne Jenkins in conjunction with the Del. Division of the Arts, Kent County Tourism, Southern Delaware Tourism, and DEDO. Information about Milford and surrounding communities will be highlighted.
- The City of Milford is working with Delaware Tourism to create a city brand and logo. Milford is the first focus locale.

Director's Report: Lee Nelson

- The ART Project will be featured in Boating World and Sea Life International in mid-June. These are published in California for a national magazine.

- Diversity Project update: Noa will be staying with Sara Pletcher and will be able to work part-time in addition to her responsibilities to the project. She will be attending a technical grant-writing workshop in July.
- There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the martial arts studio on May 16 at Noon. Board members are welcome to attend.

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion was made, seconded and approved by Board members present to accept the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

- Economic Restructuring Committee: The Caribbean grocery is doing well. The Blue Butterfly, a new art studio, will be opening in the brick building next to them. Additionally, Chef Mia will be offering cooking classes based on living well ideas and Richard Cavaneri (artisan breads for restaurants) will be operating out of the former Verde building. The breads will not be available for retail sale.
 - + Jerry Serwalt has prepared a city inventory which should be beneficial to DMI.
 - + DEDO met with three new business owners between training meetings in Rehoboth Beach and Dover. The meetings were with PattyCakes, the Antiques Mall and the Irish Rose. It was suggested that we should advertise positive events like this so that people can see what we are able to provide and accomplish.
 - + It was suggested that we partner with DEDO to offer training sessions to the Downtown Development Committee.
- Organization Committee: Eat in the Street will most likely take place on Sunday, September 20.

Old Business:

- Mr. Morrow will be asked to formulate a document which will state our policy regarding sharing our vendor and contact lists.

New Business:

- Milford Women's Club is reopening with an Open House on Friday, June 12. Refreshments will be served from 4 to 6 PM. Everyone is invited.
- The City has replace outlets in the Farmer's Market area to help prevent overloads. They will look at adding more, as well.

With no further business to attend to a motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Members present approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next scheduled Meeting is **Thursday, June 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM in City Council Chambers.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Sparks, Secretary