

Board Meeting of the Trustees
Fort Lee Improvement District Corporation
DBA: Business District Alliance (BDA) of Fort Lee
October 25, 2023

Call to order: 5:03pm

Present: Michael Beyer, Ken Bruno, Councilman Joseph Cervieri Anthony Clores, Denis Glennon, Kathy Lee, James Liu, Frank Patti, Councilman Harvey Sohmer, Mayor Mark Sokolich, Romina Starace,

Absent: Kiky Kim, Ken Sagrestano, Ashley Yook

Also Present: Natalie Chape', Denise Sokolich, Chief Eddie Young

**Minutes: MOTION to approve September Minutes: T. Clores Second by: R. Starace
Abstain: J. Cervieri**

Treasurer's Report

The fraud issue is still under investigation; however, the monies have been deposited back into our account. \$1k donation from Connect One Bank for Fall O Ween. We also received \$ 500 from an insurance agency for the art mural vandalization. Ending Balance:

MOTION to approve August and September Treasurers Report: J. Cervieri, Second by: K. Bruno

Presidents Report: **R. Starace** – Jim Capone: We are waiting for Jim to return. We are in receipt of the 3rd QT invoice for \$15k. Jim is still on leave and when he returns, he will be on light duty. We need to speak to AI about the payment arrangement to the Borough. We have a part-time person the Borough hired for sweeping twice a week. There was some conversation as to what responsibilities have been taken away from Jim within the last year because of his workload. The question is does the \$75k we pay the Borough justify what the workload is. This will be further discussed and finalized at the next meeting.

Be Fort Lee Park: **R. Starace**- Flowers in the park are very overgrown. The Halloween decoration that they put up are blocking the Be Fort Lee sign. (see picture in email from 10/25/23 @ 3:49pm) There was a discussion about this, the BDA feels that it has come to the point that the flowers and the sign are competing with each other. There was a suggestion that we ask the landscaper to plant no higher than the base of the sign to not obstruct the sign-no higher and keep them neat and tidy. According to our last meeting, there were mums that were going to be planted there. **M. Sokolich** will communicate with the landlords and then **N. Chape'** directly on the status of the plants.

Generator: N. Chape'- There was an ask to purchase a generator for our events, being that we don't have enough power in either park. Before we knew if the generator would work, we purchased one that we will return asap, just needed to test out the power before. It is in fact not strong enough so it will be returned. A more expensive one will be needed to meet the requirements. The board discussed it and decided that we rent one if needed this time for FalloWeen and research the best generators for next year.

R. Starace: Has respectfully stepped down as board president as of January 1, 2024 for personal reasons. She would like to stay on the board as a member if the BDA would accept. There is no doubt the BDA would be honored to keep **R. Starace** on the board.

Committee Reports

Visual Capital Improvements: A. Clores- Interstate Waste has not received their check. They have an issue with their invoicing at the moment because they only invoice every 2 months. The check is cut and ready to be signed.

MOTION to approve \$ 11k fall plantings (we spoke about this last month but never made a motion): R. Starace, Second by: K. Bruno

Last month we approved Balitano for \$ 85 per hour, however, **T.Clores** hired a landscaper to do the weeding in 3 days @ \$50 per hour total \$ 3,500 (Steve Valko)

New Park: Park will be done and ready to open hopefully May 2024

Holiday pole lighting: Christmas Design Decorators- 150 poles \$ 17k. She was asked to please put ornaments at the top of the pole as a sample.

**MOTION to approve the \$17k for holiday poles: J. Cervieri, Second by: D. Glennon
Abstain: T. Clores**

Tree Lights: 8-10 trees don't have power on Main St., **M. Maresca** will work on that.

Marketing: D. Glennon- Falloween will be this weekend at Monument Park. RW- after some conversations with the restaurants the Main St. restaurants seem to do better than those that are not that visible. After some conversation, it was asked if we can look into putting banner brackets on Palisade Ave as well as Main St. The posters are not enough advertising. The Mayor has also suggested that the Borough can help with the videos as well to promote. The library can also help to put on their sign as well as the FLPD.

Falloween is being held at Monument Park as well as Santa Saturday.

Old Business:

New Business:

Holiday Dinner will be scheduled for December.

**Adjourn: MOTION: to adjourn at 6:17pm J. Cervieri, Second by: K. Lee Approved
Next Meeting November 2023**