



Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2025, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Stephen Del Percio; Tom Hillman; Pam Perron; Stacey Tsapatsaris; Glenn Carlough; Steve Aspero; Rebecca Tatlock; Niena Jerdee

Administration: Email approvals to follow for November and December 2024 minutes.

Updates:

▪ **Village Council:**

- Town Garage is down. Next up is two years of testing and remediation. In interim, we'll discuss possibilities of what could go there. Chris R the Village Engineer will come speak to CBDAC in February about possible future uses.
- Condemnation lawsuit is still proceeding. Village's LSRP might be able to send us some documents about site status, if they're public.
- Things Pam has noticed around CBD: lamppost knocked down in front of the bus station is being replaced. There is also a new "Ridgewood" magazine now - like Katherine Schmidt's. Also, on social media, "Ridgewood, NJ Downtown Businesses" - spearheaded by Lauren Imbruglia. 500+ members.
- SID Steering Committee continues to meet. Rehearsals are coming to make the presentation to the business community, which will happen this spring. Invites go out by mail. Q&A period. Then the Steering Committee decides, by consensus, whether Village think SID is feasible and assesses if the landlords/tenants are on board.
- "Ridgewood Village Alliance" would be likely d/b/a name for SID if enacted.

▪ **Chamber of Commerce:**

- New form of Restaurant Week this year. Limited interest, so this year just five restaurants are participating and each one has a night. Different menus, prix fixe, gift cards based on what you spend, etc. Week of 1/13. Economics are making it difficult to sustain for restaurants generally.

- January is a big month for the Chamber to get stuff done internally but also looking for events to add to calendar in future during this quiet month.
 - Taste of Ridgewood at Felina is one idea - 20 participants, different stations. Similar to Fashion Show in concept.
 - Membership of Chamber has changed over the years. Networking groups, non-brick-and-mortar businesses are huge part of the membership.
 - Tatte Bakery coming into old Bobby Knapp space on Ridgewood Avenue - Boston-based, huge following. Promoting that it's opening up in Ridgewood - first one in NJ. Want to open up in March but might be April.
 - Focus on streamlining permits. Splitting the storefront. Glass on east side to let sunshine come in - so a permitting nuance. But very exciting to anchor that end of Ridgewood Ave. Pam to speak with Keith and keep this moving along.
 - Issues with the old bank for sale on corner of Franklin and Broad. Has gone before HPC - different groups involved with sale, land lease, development, etc. Sounds like it is not a done deal. Trying to understand what can be done with the parcel first. Developer spoke at second meeting. Mindfully/aesthetic experience and HPC felt more comfortable. But nobody owns it yet - so just conversation.
 - Brewery and apartment developer have also looked at the site. Could be chopped up and closed.
- **Ridgewood Guild:**
 - No update this month.
- **CSAC**
 - No update this month.
- **CBDAC Beautification:**
 - There will be an AIR (Art Initiative Ridgewood) meeting next Thursday at 4pm in the 5th floor conference room. We are actively recruiting volunteers for the design and fundraising teams. Contact Jeanne Johnson for more information and to get involved!
 - We'd also love to see a mural painted on the Gilsenan building.

▪ **Parking recommendations & miscellaneous**

- Glenn has summarized ten bullets about parking that have been a frequent topic at CBDAC over the last year. Will circulate it to the larger group to think about and come prepared to discuss at February meeting.
- Goal is to have a consensus document that we can share with Village Council at some point in 2025.
- Pam will also share data on parking revenues from 2024 in connection with budgeting process.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025, via Zoom

Submitted by Steven Del Percio