



Minutes of Central Business District Advisory Committee Meeting

Conducted via Zoom on Thursday, March 13, 2025

Members present : Stacey Tsapatsaris, David Rosen, Miranda Soffian, Niena Jerdee, Glenn Carlough, Police Chief Forest Lyons, Rebecca Tatlock-Marijan, Stephen Del Percio, Pam Perron, Don Alexband, Stephen Aspero

Guests present : Jeanne Johnson, Tom Hillmann

Approval of Minutes : January and February minutes not yet circulated.

New Member Introductions : Miranda Soffian - Resident for 10 years.
David Rosen - Resident for 3 years. Grew up in the Village.
Don Axelband - owns Levato Eyewear at 21 Oak Street.

Village Council & SID: (Pam)

- Council appointed Don Axelband, owner of Levator Eyewear, as a CBDAC business owner member
- Council introduced an ordinance to prohibit riding scooters, skateboards and other “micromobility vehicles” in the CBD. The description of the CBD is for the purpose of this ordinance only. CBDAC should consider drafting a definition of the CBD for general purposes.
- Council renamed Project Pride (planting the flowers + plants downtown) as the “Ridgewood Beautification Team.” Pam will let us know when the planting will be taking place. Councilmember Siobhan Winograd donated \$1,000 to this effort. Anyone can donate to Village initiatives. If over \$500, Council can pass a resolution so that the donor can claim a tax deduction. If interested, go to the Finance Dept., Village Hall, 3rd floor.
- Pam asked if anyone objected to her circulating to the group the new CBDAC membership list with emails + telephone numbers. No one objected.
- The Special Improvement District Steering Committee gave their presentation to the Ridgewood business community on Monday night. It went well. They distributed surveys to audience members to get their input. The SID consultant will analyze and report on the survey results.
- Last night, Council introduced an ordinance to allow food vendors to purchase a one-day event license for \$50 or a full year license for \$150. The public hearing will be at the Village Council meeting on April 9th
- Council passed an ordinance that reserves parking on Library Place and Corsa Terrace for Pease Library tenants only.



- Council passed a change order resolution to pay additional costs incurred at the N. Walnut CBD employee parking lot. Excavators uncovered more underground storage tanks, which we must remove.
- The Village plans to raze the Bus Station in next few weeks and install a temporary shelter. Council and the Historic Preservation Commission will consider a new structure and other possible locations.

Chamber of Commerce: (Glenn)

- Directors' meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month 8am - 10am.
- The Chamber is working on several initiatives in committee. First event of 2025 will be Easter in the Park. They are discussing whether to add a first quarter event. Restaurant week does exist, but it is not a heavy lift on the side of the Chamber.
- Looking at creating at a level of membership that comes with an automatic sponsorship allocation. That means less time soliciting support on an event-by-event basis.
- Nine new Chamber members (2 restaurants and 7 professionals). They predict that professionals will be the fastest growing sector and will extend beyond Ridgewood's borders.

Ridgewood Guild Update: (Niena)

- Feb 28 held Evening with the Oscars at Park West Tavern (sold out) ~ 145 people
- Last night's BUNKO Game Night was a social for resident members. (Once a month, may revisit if monthly is too often). Next month's social event will be cancer screening at the Spice and Tea Exchange
- Film Festival at Ridgewood Public Library April 10 at 6:30 and the Unitarian Society
- Upcoming May 3rd Spring Market Place, Pride Market June 7th, Holi Festival June 8th
- No news about the Warner theatre at this time.

Citizens Safety Advisory Committee (C SAC): (David)

- Police Dept. is changing the timing of the traffic lights at Oak Street to give more time. Feedback has been improved.
- The Friends Pre-School on Highwood (off Broad St) parking lot is too small for parents to drop off children, so they have been parking on the street to bring kids in. It can be extremely busy and dangerous. The Police Dept. will conduct a traffic study there once the weather improves. Potentially, encourage Friends School employees to park at the municipal parking garage to open up some drop off parking slots.



- Added agenda item for CSAC's April meeting: E-bike safety throughout the Village.

Pedestrian Tunnel & Public Art Initiatives: (Jeanne)

- Project named "Outside AIR; Art Initiative Ridgewood." Jeanne is filing for 501c status to help support & drive revenue and daytime foot traffic.
- This team was working with the Ridgewood Arts Foundation; however, RAF is concentrating on the PAC. Therefore, her team is turning collaboration with the Ridgewood Arts Council. Met with them on Monday so moving forward with the mural on the wall under the train trestle. NJ Transit must first paint the underside of the trestle.
- Rossi's of Ridgewood, a paint store in town, will be supplying all paints and supplies. Should be underway by July 2025
- Jeanne comes up from Florida monthly to do Ridgewood Talks podcasts. Ridgewood Talks is on Spotify, YouTube, Instagram & Facebook.

Parking Discussion: Some members find ParkMobile hard to use, others find it very functional, widespread in other towns, and better than raising taxes. \$1.25 per hour continues to be hot topic with residents, as other towns charge less (E.g. Westwood \$0.25/hour, Summit, Glen Rock free). Kathryn Schmidt's comments were read aloud because she could not attend this meeting.

Miranda shared Facebook comments that showed people's frustrations with the cost of parking in Ridgewood.

Our group discussed the possibility of a validation program, especially if one goes to the same place repeatedly.

The Village hired the Walker firm to analyze Ridgewood parking. Pam will check to see Walker's report will be available before CBDAC's May 8 meeting (doubtful). She will send the ParkMobile contract to Steve A to review. **May 8th** CBDAC meeting is in person for speakers from ParkMobile.

We did not reach agenda items regarding CBD/VoR Marketing, CBD Beautification, and Legislative Initiatives.

Next CBDAC meeting April 10, 2025. Guest Speaker will be Jeffrey Buehler, Asst. Director of the NJ Business Action Center.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Tatlock-Marijan and edited by Pam Perron