

**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

Location: Mt. Rainier Police Station
3249 Rhode Island Avenue
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**Board Members Present:**  Brooke Kidd (Joe's Movement Emporium), President; Larry Solomon (Thrifty Car Rental), Treasurer, Izabella Sparrow (Glut Food Co-Op), Secretary; Neil Dicken (Party Time Liquors), Shawna Barnett-Grizzel (ZZ's Pizza), Sheliyah Johnson (Sweet & Natural).

**Board Members Not Present:**Nisey Baylor (Nisey's Boutique),

**Also Not Present**: Toni Tileva, MRBA Consultant

The Board Meeting began at 9:05 am, chaired by Brooke Kidd.

Larry mentioned that Costco now has checks with duplicates.

Shawna gave an update on her meeting with Code Enforcement Officer Williams.

If anyone gets a lot of violations MRBA should rally around to assist that business.

There was a discussion about Code Enforcement's duty to contact businesses to arrange for inspection

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

Businesses are doing well all around; everyone gave updates.

       Glut getting new/more business/visits.

       ZZ to get new menus.

       Joe's is busy; Upcoming: Spring Break Camp, Happenstance Theater.

       Sweet and Natural will be opening their new restaurant in July 2018.

Brooke gave an update on her fundraiser.

Discussion:  How and when to take minutes; the difference between Board Meetings and Business Opportunity Breakfasts.  Can still share information and vote at B.O.B.  A suggestion was made to have Board Meetings every month, Breakfasts every other month. and Executive Meetings as needed.  An email would be sent out every other week with Board business, links to minutes. "We have lots of work to do...need monthly meetings."

The next Breakfast was scheduled for 11 April 2018 and will be postponed to 18 April 2018.  Mt. Rainier Day Bake-Off organizing has already begun.  No professionals.  4 categories/3 cash prizes.  Flyer is ready.  Need to get a waiver for sidewalks.  Ask businesses to advertise specials.  Need to ask Public Works about parking waivers.

During the discussion, Brooke received an email that Shawna Dabney is no longer the Clerk with the City of Mt. Rainier.

**18 APRIL AGENDA**

A concern was voiced that lots of members are not going to be able to attend the meeting because of travel or not having anyone to watch their business in their absence.  "What can MRBA do for you?"

Suggestion: Post more online.  Alma F. (C.E.) has been asked if Code Enforcement could be more online user friendly.  Concerns about Prince George's County permit application process and how to apply.  MRBA used to have a "Welcome Package" that included all these necessary forms, applications, etc. for both City and County.

Suggestion:  Invite someone from County Permit Office.  Plan for May meeting.  Also, may want to invite businesses from Brentwood and Cottage City.

Needs to be a marketing push, engage more people. (eg. Sew Creative, Pest Control (recently left information with Glut and ZZ's).

Neil is on coffee duty.

**MINUTES OVERVIEW**

Minutes review from: 21, 28 February and 14 March 2018.

No motions were mentioned in any of the minutes.  Must include motions, all present and all absent.

Treasury Report will be presented at 18 April meeting, if ready.

Shawna made a motion that Board Member Meetings be closed; Izzi Seconded;  All in favor.

Minutes approved.

**TREASURY UPDATE**

As if 28 March 2018 $20,000.00+ in checking account; this month spent: $746.02.  Larry was reimbursed for Toni printing and "Toni only" expenses.

**TONI UPDATE**

Toni working out really well.
She has connected with other businesses (eg. Sew Creative).

Sweet & Natural interested in consulting. (Not a conflict of interest)

Hoping to get MRBA website updated.

    -Toni working on feature stories (Sew Creative)

Hoping to connect with businesses on Varnum (i.e. Kaywood Theater) and in Queens Chapel;  maybe Leasing Manger of [3807 Rhode Island Avenue](https://maps.google.com/?q=3807+Rhode+Island+Avenue&entry=gmail&source=g)

**CLOSING DISCUSSION**

MRBA needs an Instagram page.

What happened to the Listserve?

Rotate who attends City Council Meetings.

Ask Shivali to let us know when meetings occur.

......................................................................................from earlier in meeting:

Advertising in Hyattsville Life & Times:  Brooke gets business from them.  Will also be using The Informer.

There is a rat problem.  Members encouraged to keep a list of concerns for the city of Mt. Rainier.

Larry made a motion to adjourn; Shawna seconded;  all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.