

**Minutes of Business Opportunity Breakfast**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

Location: Gateway Media Arts Lab
3311 Rhode Island Avenue
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**Members present**: **Members present:** Brooke Kidd, President (Joe’s Movement Emporium); Larry Solomon, Treasurer (Thrifty Car Rental); Izabella Sparrow, Secretary (Glut Food Co-Op), Nisey Baylor (Nisey’s Boutique), Michelle Lee Darden (Gateway Media Arts Lab), Neil Dicken (Party Time Liquor), Shawna Barnett-Grizzel (ZZ’s Pizza), Toni Tileva (MRBA Consultant).

**Also present:** Glandus Thorne (NViMe Boutique), Stephanie Harried (Pedalbrations!), Neena Naryanan (Joe’s Movement Emporium), Council Member Shivali Shah, Samantha Olatunji (Economic Development Director), Cam Kostyack (Menkiti Group), Christian Salvatori (Menkiti Group), Daniel Willcott (Menkiti Group), Jennifer Motruk (Menkiti Group).

The monthly meeting was held at 8:30 am.

8:43 am Meeting was called to order, chaired by Brooke Kidd.

**Singer Building Updates**

On the residential side, four of the units have been rented so far. There are eleven total units. There are 2 2BRs, 2 studios, and 7 1BRs. Studios have all been rented, as well as the 2 2BRs. There is no assigned parking (only street). Plenty of retail space available still. Cam Kostyack is the retail rental manager. He started that are about 4800 sq. feet of space open. Of that, 200 sq. feet is street-facing, making it ideal for something like a coffee shop or a fitness space as there are 30,000 cars passing down the street every day. Larry asked about why have the parking meters been removed; Shivali Shah responded that the City is replacing them but that it could be an unclear timeline, perhaps as long as two months. Penny Royal Station restaurant will be opening in the later part of autumn.

**Directory**

Opportunity for ads to be placed in the directory so businesses should reach out with content if they wish to be featured. Business should also reach out with their latest, correct information to MRBA to finalize for circulation.

Brooke handed out drafts of the MR Business Directory. A discussion ensued regarding the directory: should be sectioned alphabetically and categorically (alphabetically within the categories). Neil reminded the group that we’d previously discussed a one-line description. Shivali stated that a Spanish version must be created as well. The Menkiti Group is interested in advertising in the directory. Izzi inquired about the use of color images, possibly borders around images. Color images will be used in the circulated version. Samantha will provide a new map for use in the directory.

**Upcoming Events**

1 October 2018, 9:00 am: The Secretary of The Maryland Energy Association is coming to Joe’s Movement Emporium to discuss a Rebate Program and roll out very specific opportunity for businesses to partner with PEPCO to gain energy benefits. Neil told of how his business received a hot water heater as well as a refrigerator. Shawna suggested a Spanish translator be present for businesses that would benefit. Shivali offered to provide translation services for this event. Questions arose about how to get the word out about this event as well.

1 December 2018: Annual Craft Fair at Joe’s Movement Emporium. Brooke stated that 600 people shop there during the Craft Fair. Neil suggested that MRBA could sponsor something at the Craft Fair: set up a table with [Representatives/Board Members]. Larry added that MRBA could give away magnets and liked the idea of a table as it may reach home businesses. Nisey suggested a photobooth. Brooke was unsure if there will be enough room for a photobooth. Each participant pays $70.00. Brooke suggested businesses come up with specials to take advantage of the extra foot traffic and captive audience that day.

November 2018/Spring 2019: Community Craft Fair (For Residents). Still working on the dates, place…

7 October 2018: Porch Fest, 5:00 pm at MR Gazebo.

15 October 2018: Community Yard Sale. 30 houses participate

18 October 2018: Solar Power Beer. There will be solar power vendors. There will be beer, crafted using solar power.

28 October 2018: Halloween Costume Parade/Competition

**City Updates**

MR Public Works has hired a new Public Works Business Neighborhood Representative who started two weeks ago. He will be wearing a uniform; will come to the next meeting.

 There’s a new Director of Code Enforcement, Mark Davis.

Economic Development Updates: Grants were given to 5 MR businesses, 2 of those businesses are active members of MRBA. Nisey wondered about the relationship and channels of communication between MRBA and Economic Development, and stated that, “We (MRBA) need the city to help us and communicate with us.”

No motions were made.

10:33am MRBA Business Opportunity Breakfast adjourned.