



**Downtown Westfield Corporation**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
May 18, 2022

**Present:**

- Lew Kimble
- Roberta Loew
- Michael LaPlace
- Emily Root, Council Liaison
- Les Trent
- Craig Gibson, DPW, ex officio
- Anthony DiTommaso
- Lillian Pien
- Burim Regjaj
- Kelly Richardson
- Peg Lockwood, Design Committee
- Steven Rinn, Economic Vitality Chair
- Erin Ben-Hayon, Promotions Chair

**Absent:**

- Jim Donofrio
- Les Trent
- Amy Fixler

**Also Present:**

- Dawn Mackey, Council – ex officio for Mayor Shelley Brindle
- Bob Zuckerman - DWC
- Gene Jannotti

**Public:**

- Matt Kadosh – TAP Westfield
- Katie Moen – the Leader

**Chair's Report**

- Roll call

**Secretary's Report:** Lew Kimble presided as Jim Donofrio did not attend meeting

- Approval of minutes from April 20 2022 by board passed unanimously (Motion by Lillian Pien, seconded by Roberta Loew)

**Financial Report – Anthony DiTommaso**

- April 2022 Report
  - Budget was finalized by the Town of Westfield. \$50,000 was in budget for DWC: 18K for blade signs, 12K for solar benches and 20K for new downtown app.

- Design Committee expenditures: \$3K for Flower Vinyl Cling; \$1900 in blade signs approved so far for Kirshenbaum Bakery and Gong Cha. No new façade grants this month but potential grant for Kirshenbaum.
- Economic vitality expenses: \$4800 for MJB for work already completed.
- Promotions: \$1371 for Girls Night Out; outstanding expenses still to come.
- Approval of financials for April 2022

**Nominating committee – Burim Regjaj**

- Members are Burin, Lillian, Lew and Councilwoman Mackey.
- Committee decided it was important to have commercial realtor expert. Steven Rinn considering.
- Committee unanimously approved Kelly Richardson of the Farmhouse for business owner slot; council approved this nomination.
- Councilwoman Root has replaced Councilman Katz.
- Committee nominated Lew Kimble as Chair and Lillian Pien as Vice-Chair.
- Roll call vote taken: vote was unanimous for new officers.

**Executive Director’s Report – Bob Zuckerman**

- Main Street New Jersey Grant status
  - Working group had first meeting
  - Site plan is being worked on but property lines are still unclear.
  - Arbor vitae around property will be removed.
  - Initial \$10,000 has been received.
- Pizza Run
  - \$8500 out of \$20,000 in sponsorship funds reached.
  - 250 runners registered so far.
- Parklets and Open Quimby
  - All parkletson street are back.
  - Open Quimby will be reconstructed next. Same way as last year. Will be finished by following week and Spring Fling
- Business Openings and Closings
  - German Doner Kabab to open in former Brummer’s Chocolates space
  - New smoothie/juice place coming to storefront at Central and Quimby
- Director’s Message
  - Bob Zuckerman announced that the Downtown NJ Awards will take place at Lions Roar Brewery on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bob Zuckerman announced his resignation that will take effect on June 3. Bob will become the new director of the Red Bank River Center. Bob thanked everyone on the board and committees as well as Beth and the Mayor and everyone from the administration.

**Design Committee Report – Peg Lockwood**

- Main Street grant – getting multiple bids for music/wifi, landscaping and lighting.
- Banners not ready yet... Snow flakes will be removed prior to that
- Blade signs will be put up at new Bubble Tea and Kirshenbaum Baking Co

### **Promotions & Events** – Bob Zuckerman

- Girls' Night Out was very successful.
- Spring Fling – new location worked well.
- Sweet Sounds and Open Quimby are new focus.

### **Economic Vitality Committee Report** – Steven Rinn

- Downtown App – timeline is between 1 and 3 months; looking at 3 vendors including Civic Plus and Gruskin Group. By early July scope and budget will be complete and will present to EV committee.
- MJB Consulting – downtown collateral will be completed soon. Beginning in June MJB will begin targeting prospective tenants.

### **Mayor Report** – ex Officio Councilwoman Dawn Mackey

- Thanked businesses for Girls Night Out.
- Acknowledged and thanked Bob Zuckerman for his service to the DWC.

### **Liaison Reports**

- Councilwoman Emily Root
  - Introduced herself to the board; resident of Westfield for almost 20 years.
- Craig Gibson from DPW
  - Wished Bob Zuckerman good luck.
  - DPW excited about Rialto project and will be as helpful as possible in executing the project
- GWACC Executive Director Gene Jannotti
  - Wished Bob Zuckerman good luck.
  - Set up small business meetings with Congressman Malinowski
  - GWACC is doing a health and wellness expo with 25 chamber members exhibiting.

### **Public Comments**

- Jean Liroy- director of performance at Westfield Community Players
- Steve Lumminello – past president of Westfield Community Players
- WCP wants to work more closely with downtown Westfield; Councilwomen Root and Mackey will followup.

### **Chair's Report**

- Thanked board for their support of his Chairmanship.
- Wants to create more meaningful communications with board members.
- Lillian thanked board members as well for their support.
- Lew thanked Bob for his service to the DWC.
- Resolution to change bank accounts signees at Bank of America and Columbia Bank from Bob Zuckerman, Patricia Hanigan and Jerry Eicke to Lew Kimble: Kelly Richardson moved and Anthony DiTomaso seconded. Approved unanimously.

Lillian Pien made motion to adjourn.

Next meeting – June 15, 2022 at 7:30 pm

Minutes taken by Bob Zuckerman.