



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
April 18, 2006
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Ann Widener calls meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Introductions.

Meeting minutes are posted on the website. Check for updates.

Mary Jo updated us on the brochure. The other Business Associations are on board. Jason Simko has offered to do the new brochure at no charge. Rack card size booklet... promotes the 5 associations... Eastport, Inner West Street, ABA, Maryland Ave/State Circle and West Annapolis will all be included... with maps. All retailers will be included, paid members will be highlighted with a small description, non-members will only be listed by name. We expect the new brochures to be out by July.

Thanks to Pam for organizing George's event.

Business forum tomorrow morning... 8-10 a.m., Ruby has put together a great presentation. This is a first and we hope that all businesses will have some representation.

Ann and Emily attended the Historic Preservation Commission roundtable meeting. The process has been drawn out and they are trying to streamline the system and make it easier to get things done in a more timely and far less painful way.

Candles Off Main has received a lot of grief. They are asking for assistance and not being given any answers. They are willing to work within the system but there is little support in showing them how to do so. The system has to be fixed. No one is trying to circumvent the system but it's difficult to get the assistance to wade through it all. Tin Can Allee was in a similar situation and now they are out of business. Ann and Mary Jo will meet with Mike and HPC.

Ward 1 Alderman Dick Israel in attendance. He has waived parking fees for the Spring Fling and Fall Fest on West Street. He met with Ann, Rusty and Fenton regarding the parking fines. The \$50 fine has been eliminated in the 2007 budget, but there will still be \$25 fines on State Circle

and Maryland Avenue for overtime parking. You can still receive the additional \$15 fine. This is still an issue... it prevents people from coming downtown.

The question was asked... "Is this the message we want to send?" We discourage consumers from visiting our city. The City Council meeting will address parking Monday. Also on the agenda, foot patrols, outreach and education, re-bulkheading, the tax rate, tax assessments... It will be a long meeting. If you can attend to address the fines, please do so. We requested more information on pedestrian traffic crosswalk enforcement during the summer. We need help to keep traffic flowing.

Ann thanks Dick Israel and Julie Stankivic for attending the meeting, we appreciate their attendance and their willingness to listen and offer some help to the businesses.

Steve Samaras addresses the benefits of the Valet Parking. He inquired about the RFP for the parking management contract. Chuck Weikel said it will be out soon and that bids will be reviewed in the summer decision by fall. Brian from Towne Park was in attendance. Additional lots throughout town could be brought into the Valet fold. At this time they have the parking on either side of Fawcett's. They would like to offer a deal to businesses... For a \$125 annual membership fee... you can purchase 100 tickets for \$150. You can offer your customers one or two hours free parking. You pay \$1.50 to get \$3 worth of parking... Brian will send out the details to members. This is aimed at local shoppers.

Mary Jo shared concerns from visitors... parking signs are not visible, they do not realize they only have two hours.

Kristen reminded everyone that Sunday is Business Appreciation Day... in conjunction with Mills' 60th anniversary. Oral history presentations, Mayor will salute businesses, live music, and family events... please come support this endeavor. There are hopes that this will become an annual event. Businesses will be allowed to have a sidewalk sale on Sunday. This is HUGE, it's not been done on the City Dock and Main Street. Participate and invite your customers. ASGT is celebrating 40 years and they will have an open house simultaneously.

Chuck is digging the Towne Park thing. Lots of updates on parking options and ideas... call or email Chuck for more info... cweikel@mac.com

Norm Crews invites you to connect with him regarding suspicious persons downtown.