



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
February 21, 2006
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m.

Financial Report: Distributed

New Board Members: Mary Jo Robey, Emily Geibel, Larry Kownacki

George event: Event will be held on April 4th from 6 to 8pm at the new historic center on the corner of Green and Main streets. The information will be on the ABA website by 2/22/06 and ticket will be available for sale by the end of the week.

New brochure: Is in the works: Mary Jo Robey is heading the committee. The object of the new brochure is to make one for all of the businesses on West Street, Main Street, Maryland Avenue & Eastport. Waiting to hear from West Annapolis if they want to be included. All business will be included in the brochure due to the city's partial funding. However, the businesses that are members of the ABA and street associations will be highlighted by having a description of their business in the brochure. Mary Jo is in discussion with the Cyphers Agency to design the new brochure.

Taxi Valet Service: The program has been launched and some restaurants are participating. People expressed concerns over the distance from downtown and the price. Some suggestions were: Making the Knighton Garage an option or the government (DNR) parking lot across from the stadium which could provide free parking after 4 p.m. Chance to bring these suggestions to Chuck Weikel.

Chamber of Commerce Partnership: Chance will have a meeting with the Chamber's leadership on March 7th to discuss the specifics of the administrative duties that the Chamber will provide to the ABA.

Flowers/holiday décor budget: Hanging flower baskets on the Spa Creek bridge have been added to downtown flower program. However, Eastport will pay for the flowers. Chance has asked Tim from Homestead to provide the budget for the 2006 flower/holiday program. The budget should be provided at the next meeting on the 21st of March.

Parking: Due to the numerous construction projects downtown the CVB and the Mayor's office will be launching a parking campaign for the local garage to get drivers off Main Street and into the garage. Signage will be implemented for the summer months and the CVB is hoping that more business will participate and promote the Park n' Shop program to give the visitor a positive experience of Annapolis while the construction projects are in works.

Knighon Garage: ABA taking a position against giving additional monthly parking permits. The Association is concerned that if the spots are given to monthly permit at this time the spots will not be able to change back if needed in the future. Dick Israel spoke at the meeting about the financial difficulties that the garage is having and that the Municipal Bond debt still needs to be paid.

Downtown Construction: Mike Miron provided an update of all the construction projects that are taking place on Main Street and the Market House. The Market house is to be completed by May 1st. As for Main Street, Mike Miron will be providing a map of the construction sites at next month's meeting.

Mills 60 Year Celebration: Mills Wine and Sprits is working on idea on ideas on how to celebrate with other downtown merchants. Possible dates given were 4/1. If you have any ideas please contact Gary at Mills.

Annapolis Wireless Internet: Philip from Annapolis Wireless spoke to the association about the potential marketing space for downtown businesses. The free wireless service launches a home page once you have connected to their network. The page provides a list of downtown activities and business. In February there have been approximately 1000 people using the service on a daily basis. Please contact Philip if you are interested in more information. His email address is Philip@Annapoliswireless.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Thanks to everyone for their attendance and input. Special thanks to Rusty Romo who continues to host our meetings at no expense to the ABA.

Emily Geibel
Larry Kowanacki