



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
February 28, 2007
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Mary Jo called meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Introductions.

Chance presented the new brochure. It's ready to go out to the printers for bid. Check the website to view the listing we have for your business. If you have any changes, please email Chance at chancewalgran@comcast.net. Mike and Chance will review together, as will all the business associations. Jason Simko designed the brochure. The artwork is incredible. Thanks, Jason!

Mary Jo reviewed the concept of a part time employee to assist the president. The \$60,000 flower bill is covered via our fundraising efforts. We are seriously considering investing \$30,000 in the flower program, hire the part time employee and invest dollars in a marketing/advertising program to bring more people downtown. Do we ask the city to handle the flower maintenance? The largest part of the investment is the upkeep and watering. Mike to explore some options with the mayor's office. Julie Stankivic says the city is hiring a horticulturalist and this may be part of their responsibility.

Sprinklers were the major issue at the City Council meeting. Ann addressed some additional issues that she hopes can be explored. The gas lines and power lines have been a concern, the narrow streets... it's not just mandatory sprinklers that must be addressed. As a business group we ask that we explore further, before we move to enforce mandatory sprinklers. Julie Stankivic stepped in to clarify... the fire department will examine each building to look for the appropriate action to be taken for that specific building. She suggests \$150,000,000 must be put into the downtown area to upgrade water, sewer and power lines. Another member addressed her concerns as a business owner rather than as a building owner. March 12th sprinkler demos and fire meetings at State House and March 19th at City Council chambers. Please feel free to attend.

Gary from Mills summed it up that we must protect our businesses... whether it be from fire, parking challenges, new shopping centers... Mary Jo reiterated this is the



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challenge... we need new people to join the Board... we are reactive rather than pro-active. And we're making changes to become a more pro-active organization.

Ann expressed how discouraging it is for property owners who do not live within city limits. Rusty picked it up and reported on the brainstorming meeting with the Chamber, and the other downtown groups. The concept of a "business alderman" was discussed. "The 9th Ward" (not a real place) could be the seat designated to this additional alderman. Mike suggested this is being reviewed. A charter amendment can be made to add this new seat. Julie doesn't necessarily agree. She believes we should have a spokesperson who attends city council meetings regularly and is the voice of the business community. She feels we could be heard loud and clear if we made ourselves highly visible... all this goes back to our need for the new president and the executive director.

Mary Jo again called for new faces, new ideas and new people to step up and join the Board.

Gary asked for participants for Business Appreciation Day on April 14.

State parking garage is open to visitors in the evening and on weekends and it's free.

Lt. Della introduced himself. Call or email anytime you need or want to talk to him: 410-268-9000 bdella@annapolis.gov We appreciate his attendance and thank him for his support and kind words about the downtown business district. He encourages us to call in when you see shoplifters, vagrants, drug dealers etc... if they are around your business, you have every right to call and you should.