



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
January 17, 2006
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Chance called meeting called to order at 6:23 p.m.

Dick Israel introduced himself (new Ward 1 Alderman). While the residents are his primary focus and responsibility, he wants to create a business-friendly environment. He has also visited St. Mary's. He wants to build bridges within the community. He feels the new City Council has started off on positive note... while there are differences of opinion, the tone is respectful between the council members. He will hold open meetings at 49 West. Feel free to call him anytime to discuss any issues/concerns that you may have 410 263-5607. (This is his home number, please be respectful of that.) Alderman Julie Stankivic (Ward 6) and Sam Shropshire (Ward 7) also attended. We appreciate their interest in our organization. Their email addresses can be found on the City's website.

Parking. Chuck Weikel, Danielle Matland and Paula Hyman were in attendance. They are working on solutions to the parking crunch... the taxi ride subsidy program is underway. Increased parking and meter fees should generate \$1 million. Ideas include extending the hours of shuttle to the stadium and taxi services driving restaurant employees directly to their vehicles and waiting until they are safely in the cars. Safety is a primary focus. Historic Annapolis Foundation offered to put in \$2000 in to offer the service for free. They ask the ABA to kick in \$2000 as well. Restaurants would procure the traffic booklets from the city. Employees would be given coupons, the taxi ride would be \$2 and the parking fee is \$5. This is one option in the toolbox. There will be more options that will follow.

Chance suggested the idea of workers walking or getting a ride to work and the coupon would allow them a taxi ride home. Danielle said that is something they have looked at and it may become an option down the road. Paula will reach out to the business organizations in an effort to spread the word to business owners.

“Pay and Display” .bids are coming in from several services. The Mayor is supportive of the program. HAF, HPC and Ward One Residents are also supporting the program. Valet Parking will return in the spring, Emory is accepting bids for the service.

If you are interested in learning more, the next parking meeting is 7 p.m. on the the 23rd at Loews.

Midnight Madness was a success even though the weather wasn't fabulous. The dates are December 7 and 14th for 2006. Mark it down... you heard it here first!

Minutes of all meetings will be available on the website from now on. If you have time to assist with the upkeep of the site, please talk to Chance.

Fundraiser for George...\$25 a ticket. George does SOOOOO much for the business community, it's our way of recognizing him for his kindness and generosity. Stay tuned for details.

Brochures... we must approach the other Business Associations about a joint brochure while the city has offered to pay half if we include ALL businesses... not just members. This is a sensitive subject... we want to include only dues-paying members. Options to consider: Differentiating the members by giving them a bold entry or a description of the member businesses. We must have a tangible benefit for members.

Membership Committee... we have 127 members; 47 are paid up for 2006. We need someone to coordinate the campaign. Scott Gardiner will continue to manage the monies.

Board Members... we have several seats open, if you are interested in joining, please let us know. We welcome new faces and new ideas.

Part time Administrator...this is a position we hoped to fill. The Chamber has offered their services and we are exploring that option. Job description to be built by Pam, Judy and Scott.

We need to clarify the **direction of this association**. Today our main focus is Beautification...this consumes all our resources and funds. We need input from membership. The City gives us \$10,000 and we pay the rest... roughly \$70,000 per year. We raise the monies through Taste Buds and membership dues. The same people are working to raise the monies each year and we need help. We must find outside sources of funding. We must find financial relief. Kristen Valerio believes there are great opportunities to sell a corporate sponsorship of the program. Further exploration is needed; this could be a solution. Jim Martin suggests a spring fundraiser and to capitalize on the legislature being in session.

Mike Miron suggested we approach other city civic/business groups for help. We should be getting something from the County and the State to help us.

New phone for the organization...410-263-4410.

Norm Crews asks that call in about any **panhandling**. Many complain the problem is chronic yet people are not calling to report this. Call 268-4141 and report it. The police need a record of these incidents.

Lili Openshaw presented on "**Navigate Annapolis**," a new program the City has started. "Access Annapolis" is about trails and sidewalks. "Walk Annapolis" gives you pedestrian wayfaring

signs and maps to guide visitors. This is the third part of this program which will be aimed at vehicular traffic. Districts are color coded. Eleven pedestrian wayfaring signs are already up; nine maps as well. Seven vehicular signs will follow. Philadelphia and Baltimore have successful programs similar to this.