



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
July 17, 2007
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Meeting called to order with welcome from Clare Vanderbeek at 6:25 p.m.

All members were asked to introduce themselves and their business.

Stacey Simmons, Community Relations Representative from the State's Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program, spoke. She gave the details of this program and handed out brochures. If anyone wishes further details she can be contacted by e-mail at ssimmons@checkprogram.com

Clare explained the Park & Shop program to those members who may not be familiar with it. Parking stickers are available for purchase at the Sun Trust Bank on Main Street to members of the ABA. Books are \$40 for 100 stickers each worth \$1.25 for parking. There may be a max of 4 tickets on each parking ticket. A public service announcement is scheduled on Comcast to run in August and September, 100 times a week in 37 markets. New signage is planned for the Bladen Street garage so that the general public knows that it is free after 6 p.m. -6 a.m., and free on weekends.

TASTEBUDS event is planned for Tuesday, October 30th at the new Westin Hotel. Bruce Chance is the chairman. The committee is still looking for sponsors for this event. Sponsor opportunities are from \$500 to \$2500.

ATRWALK will be Thursday, August 16th from 5 – 9 PM. Galleries on West Street, Main, Maryland Avenue & State Circle will be participating. Other merchants are encouraged to stay open as well. Last year the galleries reported 850 potential customers visited their galleries.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY is in the last stages of production.

NEW BUSINESS

Peggy Sommers of Gibson's Lodging mentioned the traffic calming petition. The Citizen's Noise Advisory Group meets monthly on this issue and other concerns



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regarding speeding and better signage. More members are desired and the next meeting is August 6th at Gibson's.

A Marketing Committee is being formed. Members so far are George Nassif, Erin Brunst, Carolyn Kirby, Colleen Joseph. Their mission will be to promote better use of the website and to create seasonal promo events and ideas. If anyone else is interested in working with this group please contact Clare at 410.956.0182.

Norm Crews from the Annapolis City Police Dept gave us a report. There were 720 calls last month. Homeless people and panhandlers are becoming more of a problem. Norm emphasized that if you see something or someone around your business/on your street that does not seem right – CALL. The police will come check it out and possibly avert a bigger problem.

George announced that *The Capital* newspaper will be publishing a new Waterfront Living color glossy magazine. Circulation will be 10,400 with a certain percent being sent to other states. Once they determine the response they will decide how often to publish.

Mike Miron of the City Economic Development Dept. mentioned several items.

City has hired new marketing associate – Karen Hindes.

7/28 is the ribbon cutting at the Westin Hotel. The economic impact of Park Place will begin to be felt.

Proposed Farm Market for next year in the Donner lot by City Dock, Sundays from 8 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. This would be modeled after the DC/Dupont Circle current one.

The City Council will probably approve the September 9th Triathlon. Compromises have been made on use of city areas to make this more acceptable to local businesses. Some funds will be donated to local charities.

HOW IS BUSINESS?

Several members responded to this question. Steve Samaras mentioned the major renovation at Zachary's and that they will remain open and have a sale for 2 months.

Other merchants are seeing ups and downs in business. There was a discussion of festivals and if they help or hurt business.



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Annapolis Summer Garden theatre reported results of their patron survey with 150-200 responses. Most attendees shop or go to dinner before the performance and usually live within 10 miles. ASG is going to update their building for next year.

The meeting we closed at 7:30 p.m. by Clare.