



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
Sept. 20, 2005
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

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

Old Business

- Reading/approval of July meeting minutes – J. Buddensick

There was no reading or approval of the July minutes due to the absence of the secretary. July and September minutes will be read and approved at the October meeting.

- Financial report – S. Gardiner

We have \$42,259 in the bank and accounts payable (mostly Homestead Gardens) for \$46,170. The City sent the 2004-2005 check for \$10,000 directly to Homestead. The 2005-2006 money is available and Scott will contact Mike Miron to initiate the transfer process. We need a really good Taste Buds turnout.

- George Nassif fund raiser – G. Nassif

George lost 27 pounds and raised \$7,888 for the ABA. Congratulations and thank you George. A thank you letter and statement will be going out to those who pledged money to George's effort.

- Taste Buds – K. Valerio/E. Brunst

Neither chairperson was in attendance so Chance Walgran provided a brief report. Planning for the event is on track and we anticipate a great evening. The primary task now is to sell tickets and we need everyone's help. If you need tickets for yourself or can help sell some, please contact Chance (chancewalgran@comcast.net).

- Park & Shop – C. Walgran

P&S participation is growing but we still need more businesses to offer the program to their customers. Income from P&S year to date is \$16,065 with \$6,031 in fees to the City.

- Website – C. Walgran

The website continues to evolve and improve. We are receiving more and more hits as more people learn about the site. We had a prospective new member at the meeting who found out about the ABA through the site. We still need pictures and links from businesses for the “Visit Our Members” page. Please email your info to info@annapolisbusinessassoc.com. Your thoughts, ideas and contributions to improve the site are welcome. If you haven't visited the site take a minute to check it out.

- Parking Committee report – C. Walgran

The Parking Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and address issues regarding parking in downtown Annapolis. Included in current discussions are: new technology (vehicle with a computer, cameras and GPS to monitor 2 hour maximum) for parking enforcement, establishing scooter parking zones, inspecting residential streets to identify additional parking spaces (so far at least 11 new spaces have been created by the effort and more are anticipated) and examining the number of monthly leases in the garages and their impact on hourly parking availability. Parking Committee meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is Monday, October 3, 2005, at the Loews, beginning at 7:00 PM.

- Membership report – C. Walgran

The membership level is at a record high of 122 paid members. However, we continue to struggle with getting members to attend the meetings and participate in the organization. Please take some time and get involved.

- Brochure – B. Hobson

Chance Walgran reported we are almost out of brochures and are planning a reprint in January. Please check your listing on the website to make sure your information is correct

New Business

- Market house update – M. Miron

Dean & DeLuca is out and another bid process has started with responses due by October 6, 2005. The new target date for opening is April 2006. It looks like there may be two to five bidders. Mike also suggested that we get the Ward One representative involved in the ABA and attending meetings. He also passed out a great little booklet, 51 No Cost

Ways to Promote Downtown, which has some very good ideas. The publication came from Downtown Research & Development Center, www.downtowndevelopment.com.

- Panhandlers and crime

There is a definite increase in the number of panhandlers on the streets of our town and they are becoming increasingly more aggressive. The suspicion is since we don't have good legislation, and as a result there is little our police department can do, the word is getting around that our downtown is a good place to panhandle. In addition, Annapolis is experiencing ever-expanding crime. Last week, incidences we are aware of included a mugging and shop window being broken on Maryland Avenue and a mugging in one of the garages downtown. The ABA must consider these issues, formulate a consensus opinion and communicate with our government officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 18 (a week before Taste Buds) at Harry Browne's beginning at 6:15 p.m. Please make plans to attend.