MBA Board Meeting Minutes, October 21, 2025

Meeting attendees:

In Attendance: Heather Arata, Vince D'Amico, Don Connolly, Tim D'Ignazio, Stu Eli, Dave Fairman, Vanessa McGuinn, Elizabeth Romaine, David Sibley, Michael Straw

Absent: Danielle Millio-DiGalbo, Brittany Scharr

Consent Vote: Unanimous approval of July, August and September minutes and financials.

Comments from Chair: Express intentions for 2026 Board seats by November meeting.

Pumpkin Palooza 10/26 by Rec Department, very fun family activities.

Halloween Parade on 10/25.

State Street Fall Festival (10/5/25) was well-attended and produced good customer traffic.

Discussion of water and odor at State and Jackson. D. Fairman had discussion with AQUA regarding wastewater as a 'hotspot'. Borough engineer to work on a campaign for education and possible ordinance.

Martinique Deux official opening this week.

Vice Chair Comments: Board development committee update – planning to make progress soon.

Treasurer's Comments: Good cashflow currently. Anticipating some significant holiday and end-of-year expenses. 2026 financial support request presentation to Borough went well and the MBA should expect to receive the same level of investment as 2025.

Secretary's Comments: Santa's Parade is Sunday, Nov 30 – sponsors always welcome.

Executive Director – Written report distributed.

Managed online data breach (phishing), involving successive, numerous invalid merchandise orders received in one day. Resolved issue without incident.

Operations Administrator – Written report distributed.

Fall Fest was very busy and very successful. New software should make future events operate more efficiently. Vendor survey was extremely positive.

Borough Council Liaison – Made some outreach for Board development. Meetings coming up.

Council voted to add banning polystyrene to existing plastic bag ordinance. If passed, it will be enforced in July, 2026.

Discussion of Dining Under the Stars pros and cons, and suggestion of stakeholder strategy review – in early 2026. Pre-survey proposed to determine topics to be addressed.

Old Business – DUTS rebates due to extraordinary number of cancellations for inclement weather. 30% refund considered. Further discussion noted that the written policy states no refunds, so is 30% the right amount? D. Sibley motioned for 20% refund for all participating restaurants. Unanimous approval. Next year reverts to usual policy. Decision to review and revise the cancellation policy going forward.

New Business: M. Straw expressed thanks to L. Romaine for advocacy in expressing business' sentiment regarding potential ban of black plastic.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 PM.

Next meeting November 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Prepared by David Sibley, 11/17/25