

Executive Director's Report: Portland Downtown: July 2016

Organizational updates

Committees: The **District & Community Services** Committee received updates on the Love Locks Fence removal plan, continued the discussion around panhandling, and received updates from Amy Geren (DEL). Amy presented a written report on important topics, which she produces monthly for the committee. The **Events** Committee reviewed Summer Kick-Off Weekend (including SFAC, WTWW and OPF) and discussed what went well and made a list of improvements for next year. The OPF video, produced by Filipp Kotsishevskiy, was played for the committee. The **Marketing** Committee reviewed summer kick off weekend (SKW) and brainstormed ideas for 2017, Adam presented the IDA (international Downtown Association) awards submission, and brainstormed communications campaigns for the new fiscal year. The **Merchant** Committee discussed Shop For A Cause (SFAC): Summer Edition, engaged in a discussion about the summer season (how business is doing), and started holiday planning. The **Parking & Transportation** Committee discussed the Park & Shop program suspension, received updates on new parking signage, reviewed the response by City to Parking Advocacy letter, received a briefing on the Transportation Management Authority (TMA) concept, and discussed City's technological updates to parking meters/ticketing and impact on PD. **NLOC** Committee reviewed liquor license renewals and calls for service, and discussed the history and role of NLOC within Portland Downtown.

Advocacy Letters: City of Portland staff drafted a thorough response to the **Parking & Transportation Advocacy Letter**, which was presented to the Portland Downtown Parking & Transportation Committee at their July meeting. The Parking & Transportation Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors to reallocate up to \$15,000 of the \$25,000 that had been earmarked for implementation to expand the City's upcoming parking supply & demand study to include the entire Portland Downtown footprint. The City currently has an RFP out for a consulting firm to conduct the study. The **Sound Advocacy Letter** triggered action at the City by way of calling a meeting of the **Sound Oversight Committee**. The meeting was cancelled, but will be rescheduled for September.

Notes of interest

Since our last board meeting I met with Mark Swann of **Preble Street Resource Center**, attended the **Maine Farmland Trust** Open House on 48 Union Wharf, attended the peace talk at Zion Church in Munjoy Hill, met with **Councilor Costa** to discuss the Parking & Transportation Advocacy letter, participated in a preliminary discussion about the **potential for a TMA** (transportation management Authority) in Portland with Bruce Hyman, Jeff Levin, John Peverada and Chris Hall, met with Stephanie Brock from **Red Thread** to discuss volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, met with Tim Delhanty from **Learning Works** to get Graffiti Buster updates and make a plan for the remainder of the season, met with Elizabeth Jones from the PMA (**Portland Museum of Art**) to discuss wayfinding, met with Lou Wood (property owner at 120 Exchange Street) to discuss access to his parking lots during OPF (Old Port Festival), met with **Jon Jennings** to continue discussions around our advocacy letters and other city updates, attended the **City of Portland's Economic Development Committee** to hear and respond to staff responses to our advocacy letter and to determine next steps, toured our downtown planters with Amy Geren and Jeff Tarling to ensure the health and vibrancy of plantings, met with **Portland Press Herald** Representatives (Stefanie, Courtney & Jean) to discuss our contracts, and met with Kerry from **Chimani** to discuss volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.