



## **Minutes: Vision Long Island Board Meeting, September 9, 2020**

### **In attendance**

Eric Alexander, Tawaun Weber, Elissa Kyle, Linda Henninger, Keith Archer, Anthony Bartone, Michael Bonacasa, James Bonner, Denise Carter, Glen Cherveney, John Chillemi, Trudy Fitzsimmons, Peter Florey, Robert Gitto, Nick Halstead, John Keating, Richard Kessel, Richard Koubak, Steven Krieger, Ross Levine, Neal Lewis, Jorge Martinez, Bruce Migatz, Sharon Mullon, Sarah Oral, Michael Passantino, Maribeth Pietropaoli, Michael Puntillo, Nathalia Rogers, Judy Simoncic, Ron Stein, Howard Stein, Kathleen Wisnewski, Andrew Zucaro

### **Welcome**

*Director Eric Alexander:* Welcome all to the second virtual board meeting of the year. Thank you to the Board for being supportive of Vision's work collectively during this time as the coronavirus impacts everyone. Main Street businesses are hurting, a lot of people are hurting also, which we are finding out through our food pantry work. Special thanks to Trudy Fitzsimmons and staff. We continue to be consistently active.

### **LI Smart Growth Awards – Feedback**

*Director Eric Alexander:* We tried something new, a giant experiment. We did a live studio (@ the new Pink Tie Studio), with three hosts, a zoom, 15 videos, and a live stream.

*Assistant Director Tawaun Weber:* We tried something new, we pulled off almost all, the live stream did get cut off at one point. Presently working with videographer to have the entire presentation in rerun for those who want to view the awards.

*Board feedback:* Positive overall

Sarah Oral – It went pretty good, timing was good

Peter Florey – Timing was excellent, high marks

James Bonner – Videos were fantastic, short and succinct

Richard Kessel – Thought it was good, lots of participation, overall good event

Trudy Fitzsimmons – Energy of videos was very helpful

Nathalia Rogers – Went smoothly, amazing, diversity of presentations

*Director Eric Alexander:* Videographer Rob Comforto did a great job.

### **Updates:**



*LI Main Street Alliance:*

Meeting every other week. Continues to be active, combination of PPP outreach, lobbying, voice for local businesses. We have 45 different community representatives on the calls, mutual aid is phenomenal, pushing outdoor dining, participating in press conferences, getting us closer to these communities.

*PPP Outreach:*

Suffolk County has been great. Vision got word out via press conferences (Lindenhurst), calls, information in English and Spanish. Asset Enhancement Solutions worked with us. Promoting hyper local outreach program, not top down, but bottom up.

*Meeting with Sen. Gillibrand:*

Guest speaker on Zoom meeting with Main Street Alliance members, went exceedingly well. Have ability to do follow up.

*Complete Streets Summit:*

Held in June, went very well. Special thanks to Denise Carter and GPI Team. Took health aspect of complete streets and elevated the entire conversation. We have had two walking audits, Roosevelt and Shinnecock Reservation. Two different pedestrian safety issues while using underlying principals to make two very different situations safer.

*Pink Tie Delivers:*

We have been delivering food with the Pink Tie Delivers program. Mike Passantino updated the Board on the work the group has been doing. The pandemic caused the Pink Tie Nation into food drive mode, partnering with Vision and Shop Rite, servicing over fifty local food pantries, two, three or four times. Along with food delivery, \$1,000 was given at every location. Companies involved include Trinity Solar, 1<sup>st</sup> Equity Title and Keller Williams and others.

**Nominations Committee**

No formal nominations during meeting but two potential board members were identified: Elizabeth Custodio, VP, People's United, board member Long Island Regional Planning Council Frank Camarano, 1st VP, Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce.

**Financial Report**

Vision has not laid off staff, no raises. Fee for services up, grants \$20,000 down. Down on Complete Street Summit, running pace on Smart Growth Awards. Ahead in receivables for Smart Growth Summit, but won't hit prior numbers as it will be virtual. On income side, \$65,000 down. Spending down, tied to \$30,000 on personnel, event costs are down. Overall, keeping pace. Under liabilities, picked up a PPP loan (\$56,000), which is forgivable and the \$149,900 EIDL loan (30 years to pay back). Counting debt to the Director, Vision is close to \$300,000 in debt.



### **LI Smart Growth Summit – Preview**

Will be a virtual event. Discussed a 3-day event, December 2nd – 4th: Day 1 – opening and workshops, Day 2 – workshops, Day 3 – workshops and closing. Will include breakout rooms. Looking for panel ideas. Incorporate the studio.

Board discussion – discussion included possibly holding it next quarter, possible only one or two days, scale sessions back, create networking rooms, move Summit to June and Awards to December.

Discussions will continue.

### **Project & Program updates:**

#### *Baldwin:*

Projects moving forward.

#### *Long Beach:*

Steven Krieger - public hearing, probably 3 to 1 infavor of the development (Superblock), in favor of the PILOT. IDA meeting approved a 25-year PILOT. Moving forward putting together financing and architectural plans.

#### *Riverhead:*

Elissa Kyle – Vision is supporting the Town Square project.

#### *Roslyn:*

Sarah Oral – discussed transit-oriented development zone adjacent to train station moving forward. 20% must be affordable housing.

#### *Valley Stream:*

Developers speed dating to happen soon to help shape new code.

#### *Westbury:*

Projects moving forward.

#### *Nassau IDA:*

Richard Kessel - Long Beach Superblock was a multi month cooperative effort. Cerro Wire site is the next effort, to bring an Amazon Last Mile facility to that site. (will bring 100's of jobs) Looking to do housing, especially transit-oriented development. There will be movement from the City to Nassau County. Nassau County wants to encourage new/renovated office space. (ie - 1 Old Country Road to be renovated) Will help stabilize tax base, bring jobs to Nassau County.

#### *National Grid:*



Kathleen Wisnewski – program providing energy efficiency training and business development training to minority owned women businesses. In October the company will be moving to normal collections, but payment plan options will be offered to struggling commercial customers.

*PSEG:*

John Keating - discussed PSEG's Chamber of Commerce Grant Program which helps facilitate outdoor dining. It has been a boost to downtowns.

*Statement of Racism and Bias:*

Staff has come up with a statement which will be emailed to board members for discussion.

*Sustainability Institute at Molloy College*

Neil Lewis – discussed support of NY Stretch Energy Code developed by NYSERDA as a statewide model code for New York jurisdictions to use to meet energy and climate goals by accelerating savings obtained through local building energy codes and NYSERDA's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Guidelines.

**Next Board Meeting & Holiday Party** – Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 3-7pm

Possibly in person.

- Minutes submitted by Linda Henninger, September 10, 2020