

**BRIDGEPORT DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 11, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The DSSD Board of Commissioners Meeting took place at the M&T Bank Cafe, 850 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. In attendance were:

**Commissioners**

Phil Pires, C & W Associates II, Chair  
David Iassogna, M&T Bank, Vice Chair  
Eric Gross, John Broadcannon, Treasurer  
Callie Heilmann, Made in Bridgeport, Secretary  
Ira Jacoby, Bordentown DB, LLC  
Karolyn Egbert, Trefz Corporation  
Philip Kuchma, Kuchma Corporation  
Fred Frassinelli, AMS Real Estate  
Andy Toledo, City of Bridgeport (Ex Officio)

**Guests**

Alicia Cobb, Art Simplified  
Chris DeAngelis, Chris DeAngelis, PE, LLC  
Jonathan Delgado, City of Bridgeport  
Hugh Hallinan, Downtown Cabaret Theatre  
Joseph Katz, City of Bridgeport  
Kathy Maher, The Barnum Museum  
Yolanda Petrocelli, Downtown Resident  
Mohammad Rafti, City of Bridgeport  
Alexis Salsedo-Surovov, CT State House  
Barbara Sreckovic, Downtown Resident

**Staff**

Lauren Coakley Vincent, DSSD President  
Charles Suarez-Penn, DSSD/SMG

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pires called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Pires opened the meeting by welcoming guests Alicia Cobb of Art Simplified, Chris DeAngelis of Chris DeAngelis, PE, LLC, Jonathan Delgado, Joseph Katz, and Mohammad Rafti from the City of Bridgeport, Hugh Hallinan from the Downtown Cabaret Theatre, Kathy Maher from The Barnum Museum, Yolanda Petrocelli, Alexis Salsedo-Surovov from CT State House, and Barbara Sreckovic.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kuchma made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2025, DSSD Annual Meeting, as presented. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**IV. TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Gross provided an explanation of the April 2025 financial report as provided by the bookkeeper. The Bridgeport DSSD ended the month of April 2025 with \$299,889 in assets, of which \$319,115 was cash spread across two bank accounts. Liabilities totaled \$55,884, encompassed by a mix of Accounts Payable, Refundable Advances, and lease liability. Net Assets at the end of the month totaled \$244,004. The accrued revenue was \$807,781 – primarily City of Bridgeport tax payments. Expenses for the same period totaled \$685,488 – primarily related to streetscape maintenance and administration of the organization (\$565,669). Accrued revenue exceeded expenses for the period by \$122,293. Commissioner Frassinelli made a motion to approve the April 2025

financial report. Commissioner Heilmann seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## **V. REPORT FROM THE CITY**

Mr. Toledo provided updates on the following items:

- State Street traffic light safety – The DSSD’s collaborative advocacy with the City was successful. The City and State are entering into a service agreement to change all State Street/Route 130 traffic lights to regular signalized lights going forward.
- Charter Revision Commission – There will be a ballot referendum question pertaining to the Charter Revision Commission put before the City Council for approval at their upcoming meeting.
- Lafayette Circle restriping – This project is on the list for Public Facilities. Mr. Toledo will share the implementation date by the next DSSD meeting.

Mr. Delgado then shared updates that the Downtown wayfinding signage project was approved by the Police Commission, the Congress Street Bridge project was still waiting on Federal Department of Transportation approval to move ahead with the funds, and that the Office of Planning and Economic Development recently released requests for proposals to develop multiple vacant City-owned parcels in Downtown North. Mr. Kuchma asks for clarification on the timeline to open the high speed ferry terminal at the Intermodal Transit Center.

## **VI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

DSSD President Lauren Coakley Vincent gave an overview of the Downtown Ambassador team’s performance report for the month of May 2025, which reflected a small increase in sanitation instances over the past month (9%) and over the previous year (2%) due to the volume of alcohol containers and trash bags picked up. The team saw a significant increase in the amount of time devoted to beautification work from the previous month (201%) and a small decrease from the same time period in the previous year (2%) due to the amount of time devoted to installing plantings in the tree beds. The Public Safety category reflected a decrease from the previous month (12%) and a significant increase from the same month in the previous year (104%) due to fluctuations in the number of panhandling diversions. Finally, there was an increase in the number of interactions in the Public Engagement category from the previous month (2%) and from the same month in the previous year (22%).

Ms. Coakley Vincent then gave updates on the Colorful Bridgeport content in May, including the Jane’s Walk and annual meeting event promotions and recaps, Monthly Mosaic and What’s Happening events announcements, and the Colorful Crew beautification video series featuring Groundwork Bridgeport. She previewed the calendar of Downtown events planned for the summer and fall, either directly organized by the Bridgeport DSSD or supported by the organization:

- Skateport: Every other Saturday, June 14–October 5 at Post Office Square
- Unity in the Park / Bridgeport Pride: Saturday, June 21 at Wheeler Park

- Downtown Farmers Market: Thursdays, July 10 to October 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in McLevy Green
- Nature Nights movies: Fridays, July 11–September 12 at Post Office Square and the Arcade Mall
- Downtown Thursdays concert series: Thursdays, July 24–August 28 at McLevy Green
- PARK(ing) Day: Friday, September 19 at multiple locations on Elm Street, Fairfield Avenue, and Broad Street
- Downtown Salsa Nights: September 19 and October 17 at Baldwin Plaza
- Paws in the Park: October 18 Post Office Square

## **VII. REPORTS OF STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **A. Executive**

Mr. Pires reported on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on June 4, 2025. The Committee discussed progress in resolving past billing discrepancies with property owners that hold land development agreements in the DSSD service area. The Committee reviewed the terms for all newly elected and re-elected Commissioners, as well as the list of Committee Chairs to be announced at the monthly board meeting. Ms. Coakley Vincent shared an update on the plans to refresh the DSSD office. Finally, the Committees set the agenda for this month's board meeting.

### **B. Physical Conditions**

Mr. DeAngelis reported on the Physical Conditions Committee meeting that was held on May 30, 2025. Christine Cook, the landscape designer who planned out and oversaw the installation of the Downtown tree beds, reported out on the project and shared long-term maintenance considerations. Mr. DeAngelis announced that he would be stepping back from the Committee in the summer as his office and operations were moving out of Downtown Bridgeport.

### **C. Public Safety**

Commissioner Iassogna reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on May 30, 2025. The Committee discussed recent safety issues in the Downtown, and held an initial discussion about how to create an outdoor events emergency plan for the Bridgeport DSSD.

### **D. Special Events and Marketing**

Ms. Cobb reported on the Special Events and Marketing Committee meeting that was held on June 3, 2025. The Committee reviewed the Colorful Bridgeport content from the past month and previewed content for the upcoming months, including the Pride month videos, summer events, and the What's Happening and Monthly Mosaic event promotions. The Committee discussed potentially installing Adirondack chairs on Baldwin Plaza. Finally, the Committee deliberated over a content collaboration proposal from local creator, Brysen Moore.

#### **E. Elections**

Commissioner Heilmann reported on the Elections Committee meeting that was held on May 25, 2025. The Committee debriefed the annual meeting elections and candidate recruitment process. The Committee reviewed the new Commissioner board terms of service:

##### Property Owners

- Javier Ceja (2025-2028)
- Jason Cohen (2025-2028)
- Phil Pires (2025-2028)

##### Leaseholders

- Alicia Cobb: 3 years (2025-2028)
- Gemeem Davis: 3 years (2025-2028)
- Hugh Hallinan: 1 year (2025-2026)
- Barbara Srekovic: 2 years (2025-2027)

The Committee concluded the meeting by prioritizing projects for the upcoming fiscal year and set their meeting schedule.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Pires appointed the individuals who would chair the DSSD's Special and Standing Committees for the fiscal year 2026, beginning on July 1, 2025:

- Executive: Phil Pires
- Physical Conditions: Fred Frassinelli
- Public Safety: David lassogna
- Special Events & Marketing: Alicia Cobb
- Elections: Callie Heilmann
- Finance: Eric Gross

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Pires called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:35 p.m.