BRIDGEPORT DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 9, 2025
Meeting Minutes

The DSSD Board of Commissioners Meeting took place at the offices of the Bridgeport DSSD, 938 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

In attendance:

Commissioners
Phil Pires, C & W Associates II, Chair
David Iassogna, M&T Bank, Vice Chair
Callie Gale Heilmann, Made in Bridgeport, Secretary
Alicia Cobb, Downtown Resident
Jason Cohen, Bordentown DB, LLC
Gemeem Davis, Bridgeport Generation Now
Karolyn Egbert, Trefz Corporation
Hugh Hallinan, Downtown Cabaret Theatre
Philip Kuchma, Kuchma Corporation
Fred Frassinelli, AMS Real Estate
Barbara Sreckovic, Downtown Resident

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

Guests
Chris DeAngelis, Chris DeAngelis, PE, LLC
Jonathan Delgado, City of Bridgeport
Ira Jacoby, Felner Corporation
Sarah Lopez, Office of Sen. Chris Murphy
Yolanda Petrocelli, Downtown Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Pires called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
Mr. Pires opened the meeting by welcoming guests Chris DeAngelis of Chris DeAngelis, PE, Jonathan Delgado from the City of Bridgeport, Ira Jacoby from the Felner Corporation, Sarah Lopez from the Office of Sen. Chris Murphy, and Yolanda Petrocelli.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Commissioner Iassogna made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2025, DSSD Board Meeting, with an edit to the location: M M&T Bank Cafe, 850 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Commissioner Frassinelli seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. TREASURER REPORT
Treasurer Gross was not in attendance, so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

V. REPORT FROM THE CITY
Mr. Toledo was not able to attend, but provided the following updates via email in advance of the meeting:

- *Lafayette Circle roadway restriping:* Public Facilities reported the utility work is still on-going on Lafayette Circle. They did provide a tentative timeline for the restriping sometime in early to mid-Fall. The utility work will more than likely take all summer, as the utility company is progressing in piecemeal phases. Once completed, Lafayette Circle will be repaved and restriped. I'll continue to keep the board updated.
- *State Street blinking light letter:* City Engineering office is awaiting the state's response on the service agreement memo.

Mr. Delgado provided updates on development projects in the Downtown, the McLevy Hall roof repair and Post Office Square retainer wall repair RFPs, and the intended mural for the John Street/Route 8 overpass. He also shared that a recent proposed amendment to reinstate parking minimums in neighborhoods outside of the Downtown was denied by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DSSD President Lauren Coakley Vincent gave an overview of the Downtown Ambassador team's performance report for the month of June, which reflected an increase in sanitation instances over the past month (5%) and over the previous year (5%) due to the quantity of alcohol containers removed. The team saw a significant increase in the amount of time devoted to beautification work from the previous month (104%) and the same time period in the previous year (227%) due to the amount of time devoted to watering and weeding. The Public Safety category reflected an increase from the previous month (26%) and from the same month in the previous year (148%) due to the quantity 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 (40%).

Ms. Coakley Vincent then gave updates on the Colorful Bridgeport content in June, including the Monthly Mosaic and What's Happening events announcements, Juneteenth, Bridgeport Pride, and #100GirlsLeading special event features, and Downtown Farmers Market season teasers. She repeated the calendar of Downtown events planned for the summer and fall, either directly organized by the Bridgeport DSSD or supported by the organization, with special attention to the Downtown Farmers Market and Nature Nights movie series. In addition, she shared that the Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council had reached out requesting a financial contribution towards the tent that would be installed over the McLevy Green stage from July 24–August 30, 2025. Mr. Frassinelli made a motion for the DSSD to contribute $500 toward the cost of the tent, and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Cobb abstained from the vote, and it was unanimously approved.

Finally, the group then reviewed the Commissioner contact information chart and provided edits. A corrected chart will be distributed ahead of the next board meeting.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Executive

Mr. Pires reported on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on July 2, 2025. The Committee discussed how to approach the next administrative and leadership objective of the DSSD's strategic plan, to craft a clear articulation of the DSSD's organizational values and a statement of purpose to complement the vision and mission statements. Mr. Pires referenced the strategic plan update document in the board packet, noting that a discussion would be held at a fall board meeting. The Committee reviewed the attendance of each Commissioner in fiscal year 2025. Finally, the Committee 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 June 27, 2025. The Committee walked the district and identified areas where signage and sidewalk repairs should be reported through SeeClickFix. The Committee also noted several locations where unhoused individuals were staying overnight, and that it should be brought to the attention of service providers.

The group acknowledged that this would be Mr. DeAngelis' last meeting as Chair of the Physical Conditions Committee and thank him for his dedication to the revitalization of Downtown Bridgeport.

C. Public Safety

Commissioner Iassogna reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on June 27, 2025. The Committee continued the discussion about recent safety

issues in the Downtown, specifically illegal parking. In addition, the Committee brainstormed components of the event emergency plan.

D. Special Events and Marketing

Commissioner Cobb reported on the Special Events and Marketing Committee meeting that was held on July 1, 2025. The Committee reviewed the Colorful Bridgeport content from the past month and previewed content for the upcoming months, including the summer event features, and provided recommendations for monthly business features. The Committee finalized plans for fall events PARK(ing) Day and Paws in the Park. The Committee also discussed how to implement the CT Main Street Center Accelerator program grant award for the Arcade Food Hall. Finally, the Committee deliberated over a content collaboration proposal from local creator, Brysen Moore.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pires called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.