

BRIDGEPORT DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 13, 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 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
Alicia Cobb, Downtown Resident
Ira Jacoby, Bordentown DB, LLC
Gemeem Davis, Bridgeport Generation Now
Karolyn Egbert, Trefz Corporation
Hugh Hallinan, Downtown Cabaret Theatre
Philip Kuchma, Kuchma Corporation
Tony Sherwood, AMS Real Estate
Barbara Sreckovic, Downtown Resident
Andy Toledo, City of Bridgeport (Ex Officio)

Staff

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

Guests

Joseph Katz, City of Bridgeport

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pires called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Pires opened the meeting by welcoming guest Joseph Katz from the City of Bridgeport.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Iassogna made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2025, DSSD Board Meeting, as presented. Commissioner Egbert seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Gross provided an explanation of the June 30, 2025 unaudited financial report as provided by the bookkeeper. The Bridgeport DSSD ended the month of June 2025 with \$367,547 in assets, of which \$180,088 was cash spread across two bank accounts. Liabilities totaled \$129,243, encompassed by a mix of Accounts Payable, short-term liabilities, and lease liability. Net Assets at the end of the month totaled \$238,304. The accrued revenue was \$978,595 – primarily City of Bridgeport tax payments. Expenses for the same period totaled \$862,003 – primarily related to streetscape maintenance and administration of the organization (\$692,595). Accrued revenue exceeded expenses for the fiscal year by \$116,592. Commissioner Kuchma made a motion to approve the June 2025 financial report. Mr. Iassogna seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

V. REPORT FROM THE CITY

Mr. Toledo provided updates on the projected date for restriping the lanes and crosswalks around Lafayette Circle, as well as the status of the service agreement between the City and State pertaining to the State Street traffic signals. He also asked to Commissioners to consider and share information about City boards and commissions that needed applications, such as the Board of Assessment Appeals, Fair Rent Commission, Ethics Commission, and the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Katz provided updates on the recently closed development request for proposals for Downtown North and Golden Hill Street City-owned parcels, the Congress Street Bridge contracting process, and the possibility of installing safer parking or preventative measures for tractor trailer parking along Fairfield Avenue and State Street.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DSSD President Lauren Coakley Vincent gave an overview of the Downtown Ambassador team's performance report for the month of July 2025, which reflected a slight decrease (3%) in sanitation instances over the past month and an increase (13%) over the previous year due to fluctuations in the number of alcohol containers and trash bags collected. The team saw a decrease (25%) in the amount of time devoted to beautification work from the previous month and a large increase (142%) from the same time period in the previous year due to fluctuations in the amount of time devoted to watering and weeding. The Public Safety category reflected a decrease (8%) from the previous month and a large increase (154%) from the same month in the previous year due to fluctuations in the instances of panhandling. Finally, there was an increase in the number of interactions in the Public Engagement category from the previous month (3%) and from the same month in the previous year (31%).

Ms. Coakley Vincent then gave updates on the Colorful Bridgeport content in July, including the Monthly Mosaic and What's Happening events announcements, Downtown Farmers Market, Nature Nights, and Downtown Thursdays special event features, and thank yous to banner sponsors. She repeated the calendar of Downtown events planned for the remainder of the summer and fall, either directly organized by the Bridgeport DSSD or supported by the organization, with special attention to PARK(ing) Day, Bailando Bridgeport Latin dancing nights, and Paws in the Park. Finally, she unveiled the mural design for the Route 8 overpass on John Street.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Executive

Mr. Pires reported on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on August 6, 2025. The Committee touched on 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. Finally, the Committee set the agenda for this month's board meeting.

B. Physical Conditions

Mr. Frassinelli reported on the Physical Conditions Committee meeting that was held on July 25, 2025. The Committee prioritized how to use the limited Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds available for beautification projects this fiscal year. In addition, the Committee discussed which sidewalks to recommend that the City prioritize for repair with their Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) grant.

C. Public Safety

Commissioner Lassogna reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on July 25, 2025. The Committee continued the discussion about recent safety issues in the Downtown, with special attention to vagrancy and illegal parking.

D. Special Events and Marketing

Commissioner Cobb reported on the Special Events and Marketing Committee meeting that was held on August 5, 2025. The Committee reviewed the Colorful Bridgeport content from the past month and previewed content and event plans for the upcoming months. The Committee discussed collaboration requests with friends of Louie Balo for a memorial concert, musical jam sessions, and ways to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Bridgeport Sound Tigers.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Egbert asked for an update on the Downtown wayfinding signage project that was presented several months ago. Ms. Coakley Vincent noted that an update could be shared at the next board meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pires called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:47 p.m.