

**BRIDGEPORT DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 10, 2026
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
Callie Heilmann, Made in Bridgeport, Secretary
Alicia Cobb, Downtown Resident
Jason Cohen, Bordentown DB, LLC
Gemeem Davis, Bridgeport Generation Now
Fred Frassinelli, AMS Real Estate
Philip Kuchma, Kuchma Corporation
Barbara Sreckovic, Downtown Resident

Staff

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

Guests

Jeremy Goun, 78 Elm, LLC
Kathy Maher, The Barnum Museum

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 Jeremy Goun of 78 Elm, LLC and Kathy Maher from The Barnum Museum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kuchma made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2026, DSSD Annual Meeting, as presented. Commissioner Iassogna seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Gross was not in attendance. This agenda item was tabled to the next board meeting.

V. REPORT FROM THE CITY

Mr. Toledo was not in attendance. This agenda item was tabled to the next board meeting.

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 2026, which reflected a small increase in sanitation instances over the past month (2%) and over the previous year due (5%) to fluctuations in alcohol containers and trash bags collected. The team saw a negligible decrease in the amount of time devoted to beautification work from the previous month (1%) and a significant decrease from the same time period in the previous year (54%) due to the timing of beautification projects in the spring. The Public Safety category reflected an increase from the previous month (20%) and from the same month in the previous year (39%) due to instances of panhandling. Finally, there was a small 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 (9%).

Ms. Coakley Vincent gave a recap of the sponsorships received and committed. She shared a calendar for DSSD-led and supported events in the summer and fall, highlighting the Color Walks, Colorful Conversations, Summer Solstice Market kick off

to the farmers market season, and the Downtown Farmers Market. She then walked the group through the draft job description for the Business Retention & Recruitment Manager and asked for input to finalize the description. The Human Resources Committee will then put out the description, filter submitted resumes, and conduct candidate interviews.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Executive

Mr. Pires reported on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on June 3, 2026. The Committee discussed the timeline to issue requests for proposals for all of the DSSD contractors in the coming fiscal year. The Committee then reviewed the draft job description for the Business Retention & Attraction Manager and set the hiring process and timeline. The Committee also reviewed the draft letter to the City regarding the proposal to continue trash removal from sidewalk waste receptacles. Finally, The Committee set the agenda for this month's board meeting.

The special and standing committee chair assignments were then shared:

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

B. Physical Conditions

Mr. Frassinelli reported on the Physical Conditions Committee meeting that was held on May 29, 2026. The Committee discussed the impact of no longer removal trash from the sidewalk waste receptacles, possible plantings to install in the Main Street planters with new CDBG grant funds, and listed professional landscaping firms to contact for quotes.

C. Public Safety

Commissioner lassogna reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on May 29, 2026. The Committee walked to the prospective illegal parking prevention demonstration sites at Markle Court and Cannon Street and reviewed plans for the temporary installations. The Committee also discussed the increase in panhandling incidents in the Downtown.

D. Special Events and Marketing

Commissioner Cobb reported on the Special Events and Marketing Committee meeting that was held on June 2, 2026. The Committee reviewed the Colorful Bridgeport content from the past month and the calendar of summer and fall events that the DSSD is organizing and supporting. The Committee then provided feedback on the proposed plans for the fiscal year 2027 methods, pillars, and budget for advertising.

E. Elections

Commissioner Heilmann reported on the Elections Committee meeting that was held on May 26, 2026. The Committee debriefed the 2026 annual meeting election process and voter turnout, which reflected an increasing trend in participation growing from email outreach. The Committee discussed removing nominations

from the floor, when and how to vote for board officers, and changing the June board meeting to a transition meeting aimed at training the new Commissioners.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the proposal to the City of Bridgeport to continue trash removal from sidewalk waste receptacles. Ms. Heilmann made a motion to approve the letter, as presented, for submission to the City. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

The Board set a special board meeting date of Friday, October 2, 2026 from 8:00–9:00 a.m. as the date for “Board Walk” walking board meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to walk the district, noting walkable and challenging areas to navigate, unsightly storefronts and model storefronts, existing businesses needing investment, and vacant storefront opportunity sites.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pires called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:01 p.m.