



Minutes for November 2, 2022 Virtual Chamber Meeting

5:47 PM Call to order by Michelle Adams, President

Speakers

- County update from Shari Ascher
 - a. Meeting with Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce and Westchester County Department of Health - Covid numbers are good; Importance of booster shots emphasized
 - b. County Executive eliminated county sales tax for home heating this winter
 - c. Reinstating free Beeline buses for holiday season
 - d. County just had a webinar for formerly incarcerated individuals and will follow-up with a job fair at some point after Thanksgiving
 - e. Successful job fair in Yonkers for people with disabilities; will have another one in White Plains in February
 - f. Launch 1000 application currently open
 - g. Many NYS grants available from federal government; Search Empire State Development grants

- Irvington Village Administrator Larry Schopfer
 - h. Consolidated funding process that happens every July; Many funding opportunities available
 - i. Working with a developer for affordable housing along N. Broadway (55+ units), but pulled out over concerns regarding traffic, which will be addressed
 - j. A lot of infrastructure work going on; building out charging stations, dealing with remnants of Hurricane Ida
 - k. Matthiessen Park reopened with extensive upgrades; no longer for residents only
 - l. One of Mayor's projects, subject to funding, is to build outdoor stage in Matthiessen Park (will benefit summer programs, entertainment, and can be used by theater)
 - m. Update on Theater in Town Hall: Has been closed since March 2020 and needs ventilation upgrades to meet post-covid requirements; Secured funding to do so; Hope to reopen in late Spring/Summer 2023
 - n. Update on firehouse: looking to expand
 - i. Purchased land adjacent to firehouse in early 2020 to expand firehouse
 - ii. Concept introduced to trustees: If they acquire the property adjacent to the one they purchased in 2020, they will have the ability to move Village offices and Justice Court from Village Hall to a new facility across the street. Will allow Theater to use most of Village Hall building. Will work on getting cost estimate for project and will bring project to a referendum for the public to decide whether

to move forward or not. Business community can give input. Chamber can facilitate conversations in Village Chats

- iii. Trustee Burgos wants to engage Irvington businesses - will focus on business needs and how the government could help.

Old Business

1. Membership Recruitment Drive was very successful and resulted in many new members - driven by Taste Local event
2. Board of Directors meeting - plan for the Fall and vision for 2023
3. Successful Women's Social event on October 27, 2022

New Business

1. More of a focus on the downtowns going into November and December 2022
 - a. Shop Local Campaign and Events/Promoting local businesses for the holidays
 - b. Rivertowns Public Market Taste Local event on November 5, 2022 (first time partnering with the villages for such an event; they helped cover cost of trolley)
 - c. Virtual Thanksgiving Cooking class fundraiser on November 15, 2022
 - d. Holliday Trolley on December 10, 2022 (11am-5pm)
 - e. Irvington will have their tree lighting & entertainment on the same day
 - f. Ardsley wasn't able to participate, but hoping to bring back Ardsley Day
2. Requesting Board Nominations for open seats
 - a. Nominations can be made at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-IMhxtl6qCtgeS5lp53DQs9jI9mWcXH2ZA5KD5UcOaokoSw/viewform>
 - b. Michelle moving to Past President position, Vance Long moving to President position, and Dina Fleischman will be moving into Vice President position
3. Reports
 - a. Treasurer
 - i. Push to get members in at special rate during membership drive
 - ii. Working on membership and dues categories for 2023
 - b. Committees
 - i. Membership - Looking to fill Chair positions for Membership Committee
 - ii. Tourism - Welcome new Committee members and will brainstorm on ideas on which projects to focus on

Member Announcements

1. New Members through 11/1/22
 - a. Plitnick Plumbing and Heating
 - b. Cocoa Compassion
 - c. KKoblert Jewelry Designs
 - d. Rivertown General
 - e. Time and Place Interiors
 - f. Cocoa Tree Chocolates
 - g. Main Street Business Strategies

- h. Broadway Training Center
(Restaurants that joined to participate in Taste Local)
- i. Bellacosa Wine and Tapas Bar
- j. Chutney Masala
- k. Climbing Wolf Coffee and Beer
- l. Divino
- m. Cocina Italiana
- n. Dobbs Ferry Lobster Guys
- o. Farm Eats BBQ
- p. Hudson Prime Steakhouse
- q. The Cookery
- r. The Parlor
- s. Wild Culture Waffles
- t. Red Barn Bakery
- u. Tomatillo

Next Chamber Meeting – January 25 , 5:00pm-6:30pm , Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 6:37PM