

# Roosevelt Center Merchants' Association

## Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2017

<b>Present:</b>	Joe Gareri, Caitlin McGrath, Ed James, , Taylor Cole, David Whamples, Gretchen Schock, Cindy Comproni, J. Davis, Ed Putens, Tom Kemp, Nicole Ard, Sharon Natoli, Emmett Jordan, Mark Sagan, & T. Moreland from GPD.
<b>Regrets:</b>	Susan Walker, Konrad Herling
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	March 29, 2017 @ 10:00am <b>Location:</b> Co-op upstairs meeting room

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Comproni at 10:03. Caitlin McGrath joined the meeting at 10:08 after an unscheduled visit by PEPCO representatives to the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

## Announcements

- ❖ Konrad Herling sends his regrets. He is preparing for tonight's celebration of his sister's life at the University of Maryland. Susan Walker sends her regrets as well.
- ❖ Today is Patron Appreciation Day at the Co-op where everyone receives 5% off most purchases. Food and wine tasting today from 4-7pm.
- ❖ Minutes from 2017 meetings may be found at <http://rcma.greenbelt.coop>

## Discussion

- Financial Report – *Cindy*. No change from last meeting.
- Discussion with Greenbelt Police Department officials about recent **Roosevelt Center burglary** and attempted break-ins. Interim Police Chief, Tom Kemp spoke. He started off saying that he was "Feeling good moving forward." On February 7 at approximately 3:30am there was an attempted break-in at the Sunoco station. Two mornings later the same subjects tried again, but were also unsuccessful. They drove to the Minimart, backed their vehicle up smashing the windows, and stole the ATM. There has been an uptick of this activity across the county. ATMs are typically taken from places where they can back a stolen vehicle closely. There has been some progress in the case, but Major Kemp can't share specifics. GPD is using covert and overt methods to try to stop this in the future. Police cars parked in the center are an example of the overt actions they have taken. Covert actions will likely not be seen. Moving forward, GPD will continue to increase patrol presence in the area. Roosevelt Center in general has seen a decrease in activity, and they will do everything they can to keep it reduced. The issue of social media was raised because a large number of attendees had seen the video of the attempted break-in at the gas station that was posted by the business on Facebook. Police understand that social media is a fact of life. They would rather have control about getting word out. Most times it's a help, but they would like to help structure the rollout to better share information and not compromise police operations.
- **Homeless woman Tabitha**. Is just mentally competent enough to be able to refuse treatment, but they have tried to help her. Ms. Cole offered to the police to consider using Choice Clinical Services as a resource too. Many attendees reported seeing her around the city in the Roosevelt Center in the mornings.
- **Bee Yoga Fusion 1-year anniversary** celebration BINGO game – *Gretchen*. Bee Yoga is doing a month long BINGO game and is looking for prizes for contestants. They will promote businesses who have donated throughout the month of May. 100 people participated two years ago. Many RCMA members and other local businesses have already signed up to participate. Most have contributed services or products while others have given memberships or gift cards. Interested businesses should contact Gretchen directly.
- Update on **WSSC work** in Roosevelt Center – *Joe*. The project is back to the design and logistical stage. There were problems with the location of the vault that WSSC wishes to install below the ground. One of the issues to be worked out is how to bring the 8 foot by 10 foot vault to its final location without damage to trees. Once this is worked out,

WSSC will give advance notice before any work is done. City Manager Ard assured RCMA members that we would be notified before there were any impacts on businesses such as street closures and water being shut off.

## **Around the Table**

- ❖ **J. Davis** Mayor pro tem Davis reported that the decorative lights in the center were taken down by mistake and will left up until Valentine's Day next year.
  
- ❖ **Choice Clinical** has received a notice from PEPCO who said they are going to shut their power off because they are not paying the bill. This was news to them because their electric bills were supposed to be included in their rent. Ms. Comproni reported that the last bill the Credit Union received was October. She was told from PEPCO that the owner took the bill over and may have not been paying it. The Credit Union took their bill back. Choice Clinical and Bee Yoga are trying to work this out with the building owners and PEPCO before any power gets shut off. Apparently, there are only two electric meters for their side of Roosevelt Center and one of those was still registered to Redeemed Christian Church.
  
- ❖ **Eva Fallon from Greenbelt MakerSpace** sent an email to Joe Gareri with a list of Roosevelt Center events for 2017. It was not clear which of these events were permitted yet, but the RCMA had only received a copy of the Greenman Festival's approved application. The list was shared with members to have an idea of events that may be going on in the Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03am.