

BID Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 18, 2026

In Attendance

Rich Vandenburg
Ryan Farrell
Linda Kessler
David Serure
Hina Muddassir
Kara Hoblin
Gus Acero
Nancy Kouris
Chris Scott

Absent

Mark Carlos
Linda Sweeney
Eric Brown

Guests

Julia Robin
Kevin Steussi
Lily Dougherty-Johnson

Quick Recap

The meeting covered financial updates and planning, including budget preparations for the coming year and discussions about various holiday initiatives and events. The group reviewed ongoing committee activities and upcoming community events, with particular focus on the Pride Parade planning and storefront partnerships. The conversion ended with discussions about infrastructure improvements, parking programs, and initiatives to promote local businesses and art through various partnerships and funding opportunities.

Meeting Called to Order

Rich called the meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Linda Kessler Moved to accept the prior meeting minutes and Ryan Farrel seconded the motion. All present vote to approve without changes. Ryan confirmed that previous minutes had been posted to the website, and he would handle the current meeting's minutes within the week.

Treasurer's Report- Account Status, Reports & Budgets

The meeting covered the financial status of the organization, with Dave reporting on bank accounts, payments, and upcoming financial obligations. Operating account with \$40,097.25, MMA account has \$100,369.53, gaining an interest of \$124.37. Richard updated that he was following up to secure the \$2,000 payment from the hospital for the holiday lights project sponsorship. The team discussed upcoming events and projects, including spring plantings, the Egg Roll with the SMILE committee, and the need to prepare for the June annual meeting. Mentioning tax allocation for the year as well. Rich moved to accept Treasure's report. Linda and Ryan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

SMILE Committee- SM Report, Website Update, Financial Transparency

Change in strategy, sprinkle of spotlights with more visuals, partnership with Discover Long Island, increasing traffic dramatically, double the amount of growth. A lot more influx from western Long Island and Manhattan. Social Media continues to grow, up 24% this month.

Website Enhancements and Calendar Integration

The team reviewed website improvements, including the addition of social media links and integration of the Memorial Library, theater, and museum calendars, with plans to add the village calendar. Hina reported that while progress was made, there were some technical glitches that needed fixing, and Steve noted that committee meeting information would be added to the website to enhance transparency. The group agreed to continue working on website improvements, with Hina and her team committed to providing updates as changes were implemented.

Snow Preparation and Website Updates

Richard mentioned the need for the SMILE team to prepare for snow emergencies and keep sidewalks clear. Trustee Lily raised concerns about the email header, suggesting it be more clearly distinguished from the village's emails, which Steve and Richard agreed to consider. The group also discussed the master calendar for community meetings and the need to update the BID website with businesses that no longer exist.

SOBO Committee-Spring Planting, Lighting Updates, Schedule

The SOBO committee discussed spring planting preparations, with Linda Kessler reporting that they plan to clean out planters and install daffodils around March 21st, pending thaw conditions. The committee noted that lighting will be removed between March 15-18th, with the company providing prompt 24-hour replacements for any outages. Linda mentioned they are evaluating lighting options for next season after speaking with three companies, and Richard requested updated committee member lists from all chairs to better coordinate meetings and calendar planning.

DIME Committee-Egg Roll, America's 250, Maritime 2026, Event Planning

The meeting discussed upcoming events and organizational improvements. Linda provided an update on the Easter egg roll event scheduled for Saturday 4/4, including details on a new magician and pending approvals. Ryan introduced a new Google Drive system to better organize information and tasks for DIME events, including the egg roll, Cherry Blossom 5K, and various other activities throughout the year. The group also discussed plans for supporting the America's 250th celebration, Maritime events in September, and coordinating feedback for the 2026 celebration.

BID Event Planning and Initiatives

The BID board discussed several key topics including event planning, the 250th anniversary celebration, and social media policy. Nancy reported on recent Christmas events and suggested focusing on larger, more impactful events rather than smaller activities like the snow globe scavenger hunt. Kara shared a Google Calendar for businesses to coordinate events and mentioned the upcoming dog dock diving event in June. Ryan provided updates on the 250th anniversary committee, which includes Lisa, Peggy, Lacey, and others.

GATE Report- Membership Priorities & Housing Committee

Richard outlined plans to present top-line initiatives to the board and membership for voting. The board also discussed website updates, historical plaques, and ongoing efforts to improve communication between community organizations.

Adjournment

Rich adjourns meeting at 9:53am. Linda K. seconds.