

## **Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2005**

**In Attendance:** David O'Donnell, Amy Rivera, Barbara Ruth-Cook, Neville Vakharia, Walt Lowthian, Don Ackerman, Kathy Conway, Marlise Ellis, Frank Gontowski, Rick Cole, Maren Gaughen, Steve Schatz, Carla Puppin

**Not Present:** Andrew Speizman, Mike Hauptman

**Casinos:** Coleen Puckett gave a presentation on the 3 seminars she attended at the Union League regarding casinos. The following points were made

1. The former mayor of Atlantic City said that the influx of casinos was a positive experience.
2. The evolution of gambling in casinos is to become a resort.
3. Casinos have a very high taxation rate.
4. The city has no control over site selection, the state gaming board sets that.
5. Center city's website has all the presentations available on it.
6. Colleen is on the mayor's gambling commission which will have 3 committees and make recommendations to the state gaming board -
  - a. Site Selection and Zoning
  - b. Community Relations
  - c. Social and Economic Impact

**January Meeting Minutes:** Don motioned to approve the January meeting minutes, Maren 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Amy motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, David 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

**Weccacoe Park Drug House:** There is an undercover policeman assigned to observe the house and will use the park building. David has set up a meeting with the owner of the house and the undercover policeman. Zoning is getting involved due to the illegal renting of rooms.

**Merchant Coupons and Open House Tours:** Each board member is to obtain two discounts from neighborhood merchants for the coupon book. Vouchers are due in mid February. Each board member should contribute to QVNA and become a family member for \$40. Carla has requested we give her names of people whose houses could be on the Spring Open House Tour.

**SCRUB Meeting:** Don will represent the board and attend a meeting on 2/9/05 regarding billboards and zoning rights.

**Historic Preservation:** The group is still working with the owner of a house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to have their house put on the register. QV Historic Preservation group is working with Society Hill to save the Dillworth House on Washington Square. A petition was passed around for all to sign. Carla has a copy of the "Eclipse of Queen Village" at the office.

**Parking and Transportation:** The walking survey was halted by the snow. There is a meeting of the Parking/Transportation Committee mid month. This new committee has many new members and has compiled a survey.

**Strategic Planning:** Walt and Neville have begun writing the final report and will present at the March General Community Meeting (formerly known as the General Membership Meeting)

**2005 Budget:** Don Barbara, Carla and Andrew prepared a 2005 budget. The numbers for the parking lot are conservative, therefore the budget shows a loss, but a loss is not anticipated. There are available funds in savings to be spent. Money has been budgeted for charitable contributions within the community. Don motioned to approve the 2005 budget, Maren seconded, all in favor.

**Web Page:** 2000 visitors to the web page in January. The Crier and the Discussion Forum are the most visited. All committees should update their descriptions. There was a suggestion to allow advertising on the web site.

**Weccacoe Park and Building:** The Dept. Of Rec. Has reviewed and corrected several safety issues on the playground. Walt, David and Mike met with DiCicco and Dept. Of Rec. Representatives. A wish list has been generated. There is confusion as to who will take care of some items. It was decided that DiCicco's office and the Dept. Of Rec. will work it out without QVNA. The Dept. Of Rec. says the building can be ready by Fall 2005. Committee must meet to finalize the wish list.

**Sound Barrier:** Old City recently had new sound barriers installed. Pennsport is joining QV in trying to get sound barriers. David will contact the Federal Government.

**Gateway:** North side crossing is complete. South side is under construction.

**Nuisance Noise:** Steve presented a comprehensive committee report. See attached.

**Zoning:** There will be a hearing regarding the proposed 35 story tower at Columbus Blvd and Catharine Streets on 2/8/05. The transportation committee has met with the developer's traffic engineer. 789 South 2<sup>nd</sup> street is being developed for a Philadelphia Eagles player. There is a proposed garage and roof deck. Neighbors are trying to get owner to have off-site parking.

**Recycling:** There will be a drop off on Saturday, 2/5/05 for plastics 1&2, and mixed paper from 10 am until 12:30 on Washington Ave. Under I-95.

**New Business:** "Art in the Park" will be held at Mario Lanza Park on April 30, 2005. A safety committee is forming which may revive Town Watch. This will be the topic for the February General Community Meeting. The board needs to push Rick Dickson to make sign for Philly Carchare parking spot on Catharine Street. Carla will ask Brian Abernathy to call.

. We believe that these minutes accurately reflect what transpired during this meeting. Unless we are notified in writing to the contrary within ten days after receipt, we will assume that you concur the foregoing accurately reflects the substance of our meeting.