

Queen Village Board Meeting minutes December 3, 2009

Present: Richard Wolk, Ted Warren, Kathy Dilonardo, Ed Bell, Steve Schatz
Don Ackerman, Walt Lowthian, Mike Hauptman

Not Present: Jeff Rush, Neville Vakharia, Andy Speizman, Bill Landy

Minutes: A motion was made by Richard to accept the minutes, was seconded by Ted and approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy moved and Steve seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The board approved the motion. We had several questions about numbers included in the report by the QuickBooks program. **We would like Bill to walk us through the report so we are familiar with the figures.** Mike reported that Bill, who is the new Treasurer, asked him to tell us that he would be doing an analysis/evaluation of our funds and would be prepared to explain it to us, and make recommendations for expenditures in various categories in February.

Executive Director's Report (*in italics*):

Board Elections went smoothly—80 residents voted

There is no procedure in the bylaws for absentee voting. Each year I get a very small number of requests to do so. I would encourage the Board to take a look at this in the near future, and to come up with a policy.

Carla pointed out that she gives the resident a ballot and asks them to seal it in an envelope so that it is given to her sealed, taken to the election and opened and counted with the other ballots. We felt it was important to write an absentee ballot procedure. We were uncertain about whether or not the change should go in the by-laws or if a written procedure will suffice. **Carla will check guidelines for by-laws to see how they recommend it be addressed.** This led to a discussion about whether we need to review the by laws to update them. Carla said that it is recommended that they be reviewed every two years. We also discussed the need for several other procedures like email voting so that we have clear authority to act and it is clear how we should conduct the process. **Carla will resend the draft that we discussed last year on various procedures so that we can review them prior to the meeting and we will put it on the January agenda.**

I submitted the QVNA 2008 990 Return to the IRS (we had requested and received two extensions until Nov. 15). Barbara Ruth Cooke (former Treasurer) has been doing our 990 for the past four years on a volunteer basis. She no longer feels that she can do it—feels that we might want to get someone with more experience doing non profits.

www.lasallenonprofitcenter.org is the web site for La Salle University's Non Profit Center. Take a look at the web site and see the kinds of programs and workshops that are offered to non profit Boards. **Board members need to take a look at the website and look over the materials and workshops that are available.**

General Meetings—*suggestion for January General Meeting: Invite Christine Knapp, of PennFuture to give update on accomplishments of the Next Great City campaign; Rep*

from the “311” one-call system would like to come speak; We could also invite Joan Saverino, Director of Education and Project Director for “PhilaPlace” to come to do a powerpoint presentation to the community on this interactive web site.

QV Tree Tenders planting Had a great group of volunteers—17 in all—we planted 22 trees on Sat. November 21, 20 of them on 4th St between Queen and Christian Streets. We received a \$100 donation from the property owner on that block that will go towards our truck rental and soil/mulch purchases. This is part of the state-sponsored Tree Vitalize project.

Request from QV resident Terese Zeccardi, currently a Master’s candidate at Penn, would like to contact Jeff and a handful of Board members to do a short survey—has to do with improving communication between civic leaders. Who is willing to do the survey? Terese will donate \$10 to QVNA for each interview. Four board members agreed to participate. Carla will forward those names to Terese and she will send them the questionnaire.

Christmas Party at Old Swede’s Wed. Dec 16th – Reminder. We signed up for clean-up crew, picking up drinks and sandwiches.

PhilaPlace Launch Party on Wed. Dec. 9 The launch of the interactive neighborhood history web site (Queen Village is one of the two prominent neighborhoods) will take place on Dec. 9th with Mayor Nutter at City Hall.

Casinos: Don noted that Foxwoods didn’t meet yet another deadline and is asking for another extension. The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PCGB) is meeting in January to consider that request. There was some discussion that the civics demand Foxwoods lose its license and the PCGB begin the process of determine a new licensee (and presumably a new location.)

Transportation: Richard reported that he has spent some time particularly at morning and evening rush hours observing the traffic at 2nd and Christian Streets. He termed himself a healthy skeptic of the proposed change but said that traffic was moving smoothly, with no multi-car backups as there often was at the red light and traffic is moving slower. Police have fined trucks on 2nd Street that are waiting to unload, some have parked on the sidewalk as well. Keeping the streets free of trucks parked near the intersection is important to the success of the experiment since cars must be able to see traffic approaching the intersection from all directions before proceeding.

Grant Committee: Kathy reported that the committee had met and evaluated the grant requests. The committee had questions about each request, and will send letters to the contact people asking them to supply the info by Jan 15, the committee will meet between then and the February board meeting so that the recommendations can be made to the board at that meeting, the grants awarded in February and the green projects can proceed beginning in March -December 2010.

Mario Lanza Park dog run Committee: The committee has met two times and is finishing a

third draft of rules it proposes for the use of Mario Lanza Park dog run users. It is also addressing how to create interest in a dog run group for follow-through on dog issues and has a meeting scheduled the first week in January. The group suggests that the board lend its backing to an additional dog run, most likely on Water Street, as long as an organized dog owners group is involved in design, construction and maintenance and ILMAC agrees to provide maintenance of the surface. All agreed that the water/drainage problems would have to be corrected if a dog run is to be located at the Water Street site. Otherwise another site is needed.

Zoning: Mike showed us a letter from the Zoning Code Commission (ZCC), a coalition formed to review and react to the new zoning code proposals. They have come up with 13 points which focus on neighborhood input and participation to insure that neighborhoods are not closed out of the process. They want Queen Village Neighborhood Association to join. Mike and Jeff will attend the next meeting. Mike has no problems with the 13 points. **Mike will circulate the 13 points to the board in an email and also give us a link to a new code.**

Delaware River Waterfront Corporation: Mike reported that there are plans to turn Pier 11 (Race Street Pier—all piers get named after the street which they are an extension of) into a park, that the work goes out for bid in 2010 and is to be finished in 2011. The pier is approximately 1 acre. The Master Plan for the riverfront from Oregon Ave to Allegheny Ave has been awarded to Cooper Robertson from New York City (They did the newly opened innovative Highline Park in NYC). Timberlake (award winning Philadelphia Architects) and Olin (award winning Philadelphia Landscape Architects) are also on the master plan team. It will be a challenge—97% of the land is privately owned; 3% is publicly held. He said Pier 53 behind the Sheet Metal Workers building is to be “greened up” and the bike path goes through it. He pointed out that he was appointed for a year ending in January and doesn’t know if he can be reappointed. He is the only one on the current board who is a resident. **He will write an article for the *Crier*.**

Liquor Licenses: This has been very quiet. Carla reports that the same procedures are still in place.

Crime: There are some new problems on the 200 block of Monroe Street where residents have had people on their roofs in the middle of the night in some cases trying to open skylights. The police are aware of the situation and have answered several calls on the issue.

Incentive Based Recycling: Ed brought this up and we would like to know more about the possibilities.

January and February Board Meeting Agendas: We decided that we want the specifics of procedures first on the agenda in January followed by the BOA community grant program and the 13 point zoning issue. In February we want to focus early in the agenda on the budget/money issues and recommendations for grants.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Dilonardo
Recording Secretary

