

**Queen Village Board Meeting minutes—April 10, 2008** (The meeting was held the second Thursday this month because Society Hill held a meeting on Thursday April 3 on the Stampers Square project which QVNQ Board members were urged to attend.)

**Present:** Bill Landy, Mike Hauptman, Don Ackerman, Walt Lowthian, Jeff Rush, Kathy Dilonardo, Rick Cole, Ed Bell,

**Not Present:** Andy Speizman, David O'Donnell, Neville Vakaria, Jim Markham, Richard Wolk

**Minutes:** Mike Hauptman moved the minutes be accepted as written, Bill Landy seconded it and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carla moved funds from Gateway into Triangle Park as the Board requested in the March meeting. Larissa Cahill brought in her proof of insurance and has been working out fine opening and closing the recreation building. There is approximately \$2000.00 in anti-casino money left. Cala will break out that amount as a line item to show the exact amount. Mike moved we accept the treasurer's report and Rick Cole seconded it and the motion was passed.

The upcoming Candidates' **Night** could incur expenses up to \$700.00. Don made a motion that we pay Society Hill \$250 for the video used in City Council testimony and allot discretionary funds up to \$500.00 for expenses which will be incurred on candidates' night on April 15 to come from the restricted casino money. Rick seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

The annual musical for **Meredith School** is selling ads. QVNA usually buys an ad to help support the school. Kathy moved we buy one this year and give them \$100.00 in addition. Mike seconded it and the motion passed.

**6<sup>th</sup> Street Community Garden** is asking Queen Village Neighbors Association to hold its funds in a restricted account and dispense them as needed when it provides appropriate receipts. Bill moved we agree to hold the funds and dispense them when the necessary receipts are provided. Kathy seconded it and the motion was passed.

**Welcome signs:** Bella Vista is planning to create a garden in the triangle between Queen, Christian and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. They are planning on doing a sign that says "Welcome to Bella Vista" and asked if we wanted to do a sign on the other side that said "Welcome to Queen Village". The board suggested that if we were going to consider this, we look at all of the entrances to Queen Village. **Carla is to get more information.**

**Open House Tour:** Carla has 7 houses for the tour. She needs house sitters. The Open House tour is May 10. Carla gave out signs and folders to dispense throughout the neighborhood. Mario Lanza Arts in the Parks will be held the same day.

**Triangle Park Friends** are trying to resolve water issues. They currently hook up to the fire hydrant.

**Mayor Nutter's City Clean-up:** We participated. Volunteers cleaned the 1000 block of 5<sup>th</sup>, also worked on Reese and Randolph at 5<sup>th</sup>. **Carla will call the Public Nuisance Task Force** to get people out of the abandoned houses there.

Carla has helped several seniors with their Property Tax Rebates.

**Mario Lanza Dog Run:** progress has been made. Many tons of soil has been removed.

**New Public Nuisance Task Force:** **Carla will find out specifically what it is for.**

**Weccacoe Dog area update:** Walt reported that the QV Dog Owners has split. The subcommittee (Don Walt and Kathy) met. They want to request information of QVDogs about who the membership is now. Parents have been circulating a petition to keep Weccacoe playground safe and clean for people. They currently have 90 signatures representing 135 children. We need to address the parents' petition to hear their concerns, and discuss whether or not their concerns can be mitigated by location, design, etc. in a dog run in the playground. We will hold a meeting sometime in the next month with the parents. We also need to meet with the Recreation Department about their position on using any of the playground for a dog area. It can be a public health issue. Do we want the dogs run to use any part of it and if so, under what circumstances? The Recreation Department doesn't have a policy on this, they consider each request individually.

**Penn's Village:** Bill gave a report on efforts to organize Penn's Village which is designed to help people stay in their homes, particularly older citizens. They meet once a week at the Physick House. Tanya Rorke of Society Hill is chairperson. This is a combined effort of Society Hill, Queen Village and Old City. The group is developing a business plan, a budget and working on getting 501(c) (3) status. They have a prayer breakfast with clergy from Society Hill and Queen Village planned at Pennsylvania Hospital later this spring as part of the effort to increase membership and volunteer interest. They are partnering with Jefferson and Pennsylvania Hospitals.

**Neighborhood Conservation Group:** Rick and Mike and several neighborhood volunteers stuffed 3000 envelopes with information about the conservation guidelines to be sent to Queen Village residents. There will be a hearing in City Council on June 11 on the guidelines. Residents are required to respond if they object to the guidelines. If you agree with them, you do not need to do anything. Mike made a motion that we support and adopt the neighborhood conservation guidelines which are designed to help protect the community, by not objecting to the guidelines. Don seconded it and the motion was approved.

**Zoning:** The new Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) is much more by the book than the former Zoning Board. We depended on the ZBA to support our provisos including things that zoning doesn't specifically cover (such as use of certain materials, putting in trees, etc.). The current ZBA is saying that if it is not specifically related to the zoning code, they will not attach a proviso to the zoning. If we want any such matters enforced, we have to get our own lawyer to enforce them or take someone to court. We met with the new chair of the ZBA who indicated that if it is vaguely related to the zoning code, they might enforce it but that leaves out a number of our needs and puts communities at a disadvantage. Rick met

with a lawyer to see what enforcement would entail. At this point there is no clear resolution to this problem.

Senator Fumo wants to attend the April Queen Village General Membership meeting.

**Stampers Square proposal in Society Hill:** We discussed whether the board should take a position on this. Jeff said he wanted to support it but was reluctant to take a position on it since their board had not taken a stand for it. They remain evenly split on the issue. Jeff said he personally was for the project and had spoken for it as a private citizen in the Society Hill Board meeting. Ed pointed out that we need to think how we would feel if a neighbor voted to support something in Queen Village before we had an opportunity to resolve it among ourselves. There was a brief discussion on Councilman DiCicco's bill to change the current zoning of the site which some felt had been done because it would be easy to appeal a ZBA decision if the zoning issue was allowed to take that route. That could possibly delay the project for months. Rick indicated that it wasn't that easy to sue ZBA, it couldn't be simply because you didn't like their decision, you had to have a specific reason related to the zoning issue. It was noted that the Society Hill Board had voted to oppose DiCicco's bill to change the zoning through City Council. There is a hearing coming up on April 16 in City Council regarding Councilman DiCicco's legislation. We will eblast Queen Village so that residents may attend.

**Casinos:** The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania will hear the riparian rights issue on April 13 in their court room in City Hall here in Philadelphia. Is Bill Keller supporting House Bill 652, giving subpoena power to the house?

**Procedural Issues:** We need to clarify or establish procedures on several issues where we don't currently have a policy so Don had prepared several draft resolutions per our request at the last meeting regarding these procedural matters. Everyone was given hard copies to read and is asked to be prepared to discuss them at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo  
Recording Secretary