

Queen Village Board Meeting Minutes –April 1, 2010

Present: Honey Pertnoy, Ted Warren, Mike Hauptman, Don Ackerman, Steve Schatz, Kathy Dilonardo, Jeff Rush, Bill Stewart, Bill Landy, Ed Bell, Walt Lowthian, Richard Wolk, Carla Puppin (Executive Director)

Not Present: Neville Vakaria

Delaware River Waterfront Corporation Presentation:

Pier 53, Washington Avenue: Amanda Benner and Sarah Thorp from the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) made a presentation about the plans for a park on approximately one acre of land at the end of Washington Avenue (behind the Sheet Metal Workers building) on the edge of the Delaware River. The park will preserve bio-habitats along the river (including fish spawning and mussel habitat) and an upland area. The asphalt will be taken up, interpretive signs added addressing history and natural history and the bike path will go through it. It will create another access point to the river. They will make a public presentation on Monday April 26 at Sheet Metal Workers building and get public input on the artwork. The park will be built this summer with a ribbon cutting in the fall. Funding will come from a William Penn Foundation grant to DRWC for \$500,000 and a \$70,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources (state) to the Philadelphia Water Department.

Pier 70, Walnut to Lombard: Work continues on the Riverfront trail by Center City District. DRWC is negotiating easements with private property owners. They are hoping to have those completed in the next six weeks.

Master Plan: DRWC is working on a Master Plan to implement the Penn Praxis vision. They are doing data gathering and analysis and will recommend land use. It will be voted on by City Council in February of next year. In the interim, they will work with CDAG to get public input on the master plan.

Race Street Pier: On Tuesday April 6 at 6:30 at the Festival Pier, designers will be unveiling the next level of detail in the planning. The city is putting money in the city budget to develop it.

Piers 38-40: Stores paper stock. More ships are coming in with paper it was announcein the newspaper today.

Minutes: There were three corrections to the minutes. They were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Richard moved we accept it as presented and Mike seconded it. The board approved the motion.

Executive Director's Report:

Office/building: Census Bureau will use the community room for training Census 2010 employees Tues through Friday, week of April 12-16, 9 a.m to 5 p.m.; and again April 27 through 30th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Carla inquired about remuneration—the Census Bureau does not have funds to pay for site use.

CPA to do our annual 990---Carla has a quote from Jim Pape (who does SSHD 990) He estimates at least 5 hours and has given me a quote of \$750.

Friends of Shot Tower contacted Senator Farnese to support their group's application for a \$5,000.00 Department of Community Economic Development (DCED) grant to supplement their grant from Greenworks Philadelphia. The Senator has agreed to support the request for that amount. The Friends would like to have QVNA act as the sponsoring organization.

Ongoing Projects that Carla continues to work on over the next few months:

1. TreeVitalize Spring planting: Saturday, April 24th about 20 trees.
2. Open Hour Tour: Sunday, May 16 Have 5 houses: still need at least 1 more, 2 would be great
3. Carla did a presentation on March 9 with a student teacher in the third grade class at Meredith School on trees in the neighborhood. She encourages the Board to find ways to strengthen the ties with Meredith, our local public elementary school

Parking lot expansion possibility --into southern lot: The blurb about the possible expansion in the March Crier elicited more opposition from the residents on 900 block of S. Front St.

Posting of Dog Rule Signs in Mario Lanza Park (accompanied by article and rules in March *Crier*). The comment period is to be through April 4. To date, Carla has not received any comments. She has sent copies of the article to Susan Slawson, Commissioner of Recreation, and Barb McCabe, Parks Coordinator, Dept of Parks and Recreation.

Children's tennis program at Weccacoe : Walt, Donna Pancari and Carla have a meeting coming up with Brian Villa about a tennis program.

Pier 53 Park (behind Sheet Metal Workers Union building) Carla attended a meeting this afternoon, representing QV/Bella Vista. Because the pier is almost entirely submerged, the park's "theme" has already been determined--this will be an ecological restoration--wetlands meadow, woods areas. On a "fast track"--Public meeting will be in late April. Project to be completed by late August/September.

Forgotten Blocks Report: Ted reported that there is \$100,000 from DCED coming through Jefferson Square. There was discussion of streetscape improvements needed. Cameras are being wired into the Courtyard Apartments as a crime deterrent. The dumpsters at the Courtyard apartments will be moved. The committee would like to make the area as appealing as possible to developers.

Video Cameras for Queen Village: Richard and Ed volunteered to help Jeff write a grant for security cameras. Locations were identified before—they will dig out that earlier paperwork to use as a guide.

Liquor License Committee: The meeting is coming up to consider liquor license requests from what were Ansill's and Coquette's Restaurants. Ansill's also wants exterior seating which is not favored at this time by the residents on the 200 block of Bainbridge.

Neighborhood Conservation District: City Council has not reviewed it. Mike checked and they are getting it back in line to be voted on by City Council. **Mike and Jeff will get together to discuss a meeting with the Councilman's office.**

Sound Barriers: Holes are being drilled to accommodate the barriers which should go up by late spring.

Traffic devices at 2nd and Christian Streets: Delivery trucks continue to park occasionally along 2nd Street which blocks the view of the driver coming down 2nd Street from traffic approaching on Christian Street from the east creating a hazardous situation when relying solely on the STOP signs. There is no delivery zone for the trucks delivering to the 24/7 Market. We need to keep the lights in place until this issue is solved. **We need to arrange a meeting with the Christian Street market, coffee shop, the police captain, the Streets Department and Nick Schmanek from Councilman DiCicco's office to figure out how to handle this.**

Casinos: Jeff had a meeting with Senator Farnese. Steve Wynn has turned in the paperwork on his finances—he met the March 31 deadline for that submission. He is to turn in site plans by the end of April. The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) will meet April 7 to discuss his financial report. Jeff also had a copy of a report prepared by Lt McShea of the Philadelphia Police Department. The report addresses policing needs in the corridor between SugarHouse and Foxwood (should it become a reality). \$12-14 million dollars will be provided by the casinos for police presence.

Jeff introduced a resolution and discussion on meeting with PEDP (owners of Foxwood's) Mike proposed we accept the language and Ted seconded it. There was discussion, changes were incorporated into the language and a vote was taken. Ten board members present voted for the proposal, 2 voted against it and 1 abstained. The motion typed below, was passed.

QVNA continues to oppose the siting of a casino at Delaware and Reed Streets because as of yet, unaddressed impacts this facility would have on a range of quality of life issues including, but not limited to, traffic, crime, potential impact on housing values as well as problems with gambling addiction and increased economic distress to vulnerable members of the community.

Despite the best efforts of QVNA and many other riverfront civic associations over the last three years to persuade local and State authorities to relocate the proposed PEDP casino to a more suitable site the process continues unabated.

Recognizing the direction of events the QVNA Board authorizes duly appointed board members to contact PEDP for the express purpose of introducing itself as a stakeholder in any future discussions should PEDP be successful in retaining its gaming license. Further, QVNA would use this meeting to educate the PEDP as to the concerns of the Queen Village Community with regard to siting their casino at Columbus Blvd and Reed Street. Any discussions with PEDP in no way signal Queen Village's acceptance of a casino at Columbus Blvd and Reed Street. Queen Village Board shall consult publicly with the community prior to any such contacts and shall also report back to the community publicly and thoroughly as to all communications between members of the board and PEDP.

No discussions are to take place with regard to the issue of community benefits because the QVNA Board believes that discussion to be premature.

Cross Town Coalition on Zoning: They are asking each civic to contribute \$1000. Mike, who is our representative to the group, proposed we contribute the money. Don seconded it and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Dilonardo, Recording Secretary

