

## Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2006

**In Attendance:** Amy Rivera, , Neville Vakharia, Walt Lowthian, Don Ackerman, Carla Puppin, James Markham, Rick Cole, Edward Bell, David O'Donnell, Andrew Speizman, Kathy Conway, Jeff Rush

**Not Present:** Marlise Ellis, Mike Hauptman, Steve Schatz

Opening: Neville complimented the board and thanked them for all of their hard work and for allowing him the opportunity to be acting president of QVNA for the last 6 months. He hoped that the Bard would be transparent and show all of their work to the community. Andrew complimented Neville on his service.

**MOTION:** Don made a motion to thank Neville for all of his diligent and hard work as acting president of QVNA, Walt 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Meeting Minutes:** The June, September and November 2006 Meeting minutes are to be approved. Don 1<sup>st</sup>, Rick 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carla reviewed the Treasurer's report. The board discussed keeping all accounts at PNC Bank including a money market account and an interest earning account.

David made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Amy 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Executive Director's Report:** Carla passed around a sign up sheet for helping out at the Holiday Party. Yards Brewery will be donating cases of beer. Steve Schatz's wife Ginger will work with Andrew to get Quickbooks online.

**MOTION:** Don made a motion to donate \$100 to Philip's Temple via Reverend Green, Ed 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**ScoutReach:** This group would like to use the Weccacoe building on a weekly basis. They must fill out a permit form with Walt.

**MOTION:** Walt made a motion that QVNA supports the ScoutReach program by facilitating their use of the Weccacoe building through the Dept. of Rec. and assisting them in their use of the building, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Casinos:** Decision of sites selected will be announced on December 20, 2006.

Foxwoods has recently been fined for contributions. Don made the following motion:

**MOTION:** Whereas the Queen Village Neighbors Association is a voting member of the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition (NPC) formed in the 1970s to protect neighborhood interests, and whereas the NPC initiated and negotiated a 1975 Consent Decree settling a Federal lawsuit brought against Federal, State and Local Governments detailing the precise locations at which I-95 off-ramps and on-ramps were to have been constructed along the stretch of I-95 between the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman bridges. We hereby resolve and intend not to waiver or abandon any of our continuing rights under the Consent Decree should the Foxwoods Casino ever attempt to advocate for a new off ramp and to make such intention publicly known now so that the Gaming Control Board can consider our rights and our role. Walt 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor (Jim Markham and Andrew Speizman abstained from voting).

A press release and letter to the Gaming Control Board will be released after we attempt to gain support from other civic groups. Don will contact Society Hill Civic Association,

Rick will contact Elfreth's Alley.

**Neighborhood Conservation District:** City Planning Commission presented a draft of the NCD to the community at the November general meeting (it will be posted on the website). There will be another presentation on January 18, 2007. All households will receive a letter regarding the NCD 60 days prior to the upcoming vote by City Council. DiCicco would like to have community support of the NCD before he takes it to City Council. Too many negatives will not allow it to pass.

**Strategic Planning:** Neville presented a draft list of QVNA organizational priorities for 2007 compiled by the committee. Carla will pull together a list of what "membership" means for board to consider and what other civic groups are doing.

**Nuisance Noise:** Steve presented a motion to let the police know that QVNA wants them to enforce the noise laws, particularly as they pertain to motorcycles. The number of violations issued has dropped since Dave Hammond issued a letter.

**MOTION:** Queen Village Residents have experienced numerous disturbances from motorcycles racing through our neighborhood. Many of these vehicles do not have proper mufflers (i.e. baffles) and are producing levels of noise that are at least disturbing, and at the extreme frightening and startling residents. QVNA fully supports police efforts to enforce the noise ordinances particularly as applied to motorcycles which are not in compliance with the Motor Vehicles Code and which are clearly producing noise exceeding that allowed by City ordinances, Don 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Transportation:** Jim is encouraged with what Penn Praxis involvement in helping with our transportation study needs. Penn Praxis will be sent the Washington Ave Report done by the Univ. of Penn student. There are community meetings next week with Penn Praxis. Carla will send out an email.

**Delaware Advisory Group:** Walt reported on a meeting he attended representing QVNA along with other riverfront community reps. Transportation has been identified as a high priority item as well as ownership of land along the river.

**Weccacoe Building:** Walt and Carla met with Dept. of Rec. the following items were discussed:

- City will handle all electric bills (approximately \$1900 last year)
- QVNA will handle all gas bills (approximately \$1900 last year)
- Rent will be \$1 per year
- QVNA will pay \$40-50/month for water
- QVNA will perform snow removal if under 3" – still being worked out
- City will be responsible for major repairs
- QVNA will be responsible for daily maintenance and cleaning
- Dept. of Rec. wants and After School Program and full time program present
- Walt will try to clarify the ability to rent the space out

Kathy urged that we try to get the City to pay for all of the above noted items.

**Safety:** In absentia, Audrey Jaross presented a proposal from the Public Safety Committee (see attached). The committee should provide the Board with a draft of a letter to go to the local businesses for approval.

**Parking:** Walt has not been able to talk to Rick Dixon regarding one day parking passes, he will keep trying. 500 linear feet of additional street parking has been identified in the neighborhood. PPA will be at the committee meeting next week.

**Tax Reassessment:** The new tax reassessment has been moved to 2008.

**Candidates:** Board discussed having a Candidate's Night with other civic groups. Michael Nutter will come and speak at the February community meeting.

Neville passed the gavel to Jeff Rush as new President of QVNA. .

Amy motioned to adjourn the meeting, Neville 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

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.