

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—December 4, 2008

In Attendance: Richard Wolk, Walt Lowthian, Bill Landy, Jim Markham, Kathy Dilonardo, Jeff Rush, Don Ackerman, Mike Hauptman, Rick Cole, and Kathy Conway (Emeritus).

Not Present: Andrew Speizman, Ed Bell, David O'Donnell, Neville Vakaria

Minutes: Jeff moved we accept the minutes as written and Richard Wolk seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: **We will move some of the money in the Commerce account into short term CDs to accrue interest. We need a budget for the year 2009. Carla will ask Andrew to prepare it for the January meeting.** Jeff moved we accept the Treasurer's report and Richard seconded it. Motion approved.

Casino: Foxwoods is supposed to be putting its plans on paper but they haven't done it to date. We are concerned about their concrete plans, but they seem to be dragging their feet for unknown reasons.. An RFP for the Casino District has been issued by the City. SugarHouse is supposed to be coming up with a new more urban friendly design but no one has seen any movement on that either. A community benefits agreement was signed with a small splinter group of Fishtown/Kensington residents.

Meredith--Cindy Farlino, new principal of Meredith School was at the November General membership meeting. There were a couple of parents of students there who haven't come to previous meetings. **Carla will plan to attend a Home and School meeting and find a parent that would be willing to write a column about Meredith for the Crier each month.** (Michelle Palomountain, whose son is an 8th grader and will be graduating in June, may be willing if Carla can't find someone in lower the grades.)

Forgotten Blocks committee (5th Street corridor) met again for the second time. Ted Warren, Pete Lazor, Charlie Moleski are current residents working on the committee. Interstate Realty Management (Marc Getson), Courtyard At Riverview (Elva Thomas, on-site manager), Grant Johnson of Jefferson Square Community Development Corporation, Capt McDowell of 3rd District and Nick Schamanek and Dan Quinn from L & I were there. A walk-around of S. Reese St, Carpenter St and 5th Street was conducted. Capt McDowell emphasized to L & I that they needed to do their part regarding the vacant buildings—he stressed that all parties were doing their parts. Jefferson Square CDC is about to assume ownership of a large block of vacant properties on the north side of the 500 block of Carpenter street and hope to begin construction of low to moderate income housing next fall. One of the Courtyard community's major concerns is security. We might be able to help by talking to Mike O'Brien or let Interstate Realty know that we might have some resources if they match it to put up security cameras that go to the police. This is all tied into the 5th and Carpenter area in which there are drug sales and unsealed properties.

Neighborhood Transformation Initiative-- Nutter is holding it up, auditing it. There is \$500,000 for the 1st district. They are trying to get the money freed up..

Holiday Party: The party will take place at Old Swede's. We need to make pick-ups: **Walt will get the wine, Bill the ice, Carla will order the beer for delivery, Don the soft drinks and Kathy and Richard are**

available for clean-up. Everyone should bring a side or dessert. Carla will invite Elva, the 3rd District Police Captain and Ace Delgado to the party.

Transportation Committee follow-up: The bike racks are now going up. They are the result of the transportation committee's efforts in the last two years.

QVNA Dogs: We need to draft an agreement that serves as a starting point for discussions. We need to have a public meeting before any formal agreement is completed. Discussion at the meeting will inform the agreement. The group hopes to have a fund raiser in February. ILMAC will pay to have the area resodded.

Zoning: There was only one case last week. As the city zoning regulations are being rewritten, we should urge them to include "community involvement in the variance process."

Grants: Jim suggested that once we establish the budget in January, we will ask for grant requests from Queen Village entities/groups in the February *Crier*. We will indicate a March deadline; we will match them up to a certain amount. We will determine which grants are awarded between mid-March and mid-April and award those grants immediately after that so that there is time (in good weather) to complete the projects.

Parking Lot: After the first of the year, **we need to work on the parking lot.**

Vote of Confidence: We gave Carla a vote of confidence and appreciation for all her hard work in making this a great year for QVNA and the residents of Queen Village. We voted to give her a \$1500 bonus. She had no raise the last three years, so we voted to give her a raise to \$22.00 per hour effective January 1, 2009. Don so moved and Richard seconded. The motion was carried.

We discussed possible replacements for the empty board seat.

Communications: A letter has been prepared to address the issues brought up at the November board meeting; it will be sent today.

The deadline for the *Crier* for the January issue is December 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo, Recording Secretary