

## QVNA Board Meeting

3 December 2015

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Amy Grant, Eleanor Ingersoll, Lauren Leonard, Maria Roberts, Peter Ross, Jonathan Rubin, Duncan Spencer, Frank Tavani, Yael Levin (Executive Director)

Not Present: Sean Edwards, Amy Shelanski

Visitors: Sharnell Croom, Joe Felicetti, Justin Fishman (in-coming Board members). John Ackerman, former Board President. Ruth Krieger.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed as presented. A typo was noted.

**Duncan Spencer moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, Ben Schindler seconded the motion and the Board voted to approve the minutes via unanimous voice vote.**

2. Financials. Treasurer Ben Schindler reported that assets are currently at \$100,000, of which about \$30,000 are restricted funds held in the TD Bank account. Some of the remaining \$70,000 will be spent down for grants and some will be retained to build up reserves to 3 months of operating expenses, which is reported to be best practices for non-profit operating reserves.

The parking lot receipts were significantly higher last month and Ben is talking with Parkway to learn why there's been so much fluctuation in receipts. There is a QVNA Magazine mismatch because of the gap between when advertising receipts come in and expenses go out. Yael Levin and Ben are still working on refining the presentation of the QVNA financials to make the reports clearer. QVNA net receipts over expenses is \$35,000 year-to-date. The \$30,000 paid to sub-contractors represents the disbursement of restricted funds, so these disbursements have no impact on the QVNA bottom line. Ben explained some elements of the financial statements in more detail for benefit of new board members.

**Frank Tavani moved that the financial statement be approved as corrected, Duncan Spencer seconded the motion and the Board voted to approve the financial statement via unanimous voice vote.**

Grants. Don Ackerman presented a report on the Grants Committee review of grant requests and the Committee's recommendations to the Board. Kathy Dilonardo and Cheryl Rybacki are the two other members of the Grants Committee. The Committee applied the existing grants evaluation protocol, which consists of five issues and/or questions. The Committee recommends full funding for:

- a. Nebinger Home and School STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) Program in the amount of \$600
- b. Friends of Nebinger for environmental science kits in the amount of \$1554

- c. Meredith School for document cameras (e.g., overhead projectors) in the amount of \$1680
- d. Fleischer Art Memorial for transporting children from Nebinger to Fleisher in the amount of \$2000
- e. Friends of Bainbridge Green to cover the cost of engaging a consultant for fund raising and grant writing in the amount of \$2500

Don reported that there wasn't enough money for all grant requests; the Committee approved \$7780 in requests, with the understanding that disbursements were limited to \$8000. The requests that were not approved included:

- a. The Moyamensing Point group request for \$900 to replace one of three benches. The Committee felt that the bench depicted in the request didn't match the other benches at the Point and the group wasn't contributing any of its own money.
- b. Friends of Gateway Green asked for \$1000 to remove and/or transplant 17 trees. The Committee had a lot of questions, because: the work couldn't be accomplished for \$1000; the quote was from landscape architect, not arborist; and it wasn't clear how the \$1000 request fit into the grants already secured, including \$5000 from QVNA.

Frank Tavani asked how the Grants Committee administers the grant program and was advised that the procedure is available on the website. Jeff Hornstein talked about how the grants process has worked in the past. There ensued a discussion about whether the procedure should be changed so that the Board would separately evaluate the requests and the Grants Committee's recommendations. Maria Roberts questioned the fact that there was no follow-up with any of the groups for whom the grants were denied.

**Peter Ross moved that the Grant Committee recommendations be approved, Frank Tavani seconded the motion and a discussion ensued. The motion was then approved by a majority of a quorum of the Board.**

3. President's Report.

- a. Dog Waste Containers. Frank Tavani summarized that the program has been without leadership for about a year. He recommended that the Board decide whether it wants to continue the program and engage someone to run it. Yael noted that the Dogs Committee has \$253 in its budget, but that the money will be used by the end of year to pay LRC (the company that QVNA currently engages to clean the streets) to empty the containers. Yael reported that there was no interest in the dog summit that she tried to establish. There are 7 receptacles, but only one has a sponsor (Queen Village Veterinary). The program has been successful in having less dog refuse on streets. Frank proposed that the options are discontinuing the program or having an emergency fund-raiser and, provided enough funds are received, continue to pay LRC to empty the containers. Duncan thought it was a good effort, but the experiment didn't work. and proposed that QVNA abandon the program but remain open to alternative proposals. Peter

Ross noted that the Board decided last summer that it would pay LRC until the Dogs Committee funds were used up and, if another solution didn't present itself, discontinue the program.

**Frank Tavani moved to dismantle program at end of December and use any money remaining in the Dogs Committee budget to have someone remove the cans and put up signs explaining what happened and what interested people could do. Duncan Spencer seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous show of hands.**

b. Triangle lot at 6<sup>th</sup> and Christian. The neighbors want this property (located in Bella Vista, but bordering Queen Village) to remain a park, but the owner sold the property and there's a development program in process. The Bella Vista neighborhood association asked whether QVNA wanted to get involved. Jeff feels that QVNA should stay out of it, unless the Bella Vista Board specifically asks for our participation. He thinks the Bella Vista zoning committee may approve the proposed development program with some modifications.

Jeff further explains that Mike Hauptman, head of the QVNA Zoning Committee and former Board member, attended the Bella Vista meeting where there was a lot of opposition to the development. Ruth Krieger lives near the triangle and attended the QVNA Board meeting to ask questions about some comments Mike made. Duncan was also at the Bella Vista meeting and heard Mike address the Bella Vista Board and identify himself initially as member of the QVNA Zoning Committee, but apparently some meeting attendees thought Mike was speaking for the Board. Ben would like the QVNA Board to keep an eye on project, since it's literally on the border of Queen Village and may have impact on QV residents.

4. Budget. Ben presented the proposed 2016 budget. Community disbursement allotments were discussed. The Committee allotments were based on actual proposals received from Tree Tenders, but Yael noted that she estimated the remaining allotments based on past practices. Jeff discussed the idea of having two grant cycles next year, instead of one. Maria Roberts asks that the Board be alert to allotting available funds for a variety of neighborhood issues, not focusing on any one issue too much.

Peter proposed that the Board give committees a little more time to put together numbers and that the Board vote on the budget at the January meeting. Jeff proposed that voting on the budget be tabled and that the Board vote by email as soon as all Committee requests are received (due by December 10<sup>th</sup>), but before holiday party.

**Frank Tavani moved that Jeff's proposal be adopted, Peter Ross seconded the motion and the motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy A. Elliott, Esq.  
Recording Secretary