

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—February 7, 2008

In Attendance: Ed Bell, Mike Hauptman, Rick Cole, Richard Wolk, Kathy Dilonardo, Walt Lothian, Bill Landy, Jeff Rush, Don Ackerman, Neville Vakharia, Kathy Conway

Not Present: David O'Donnell, Andy Speizman, Jim Markham

The meeting began with a presentation of a proposal by the Dog Owners Group for setting up a temporary dog area on the west side of the Weccacoe Playground. The Dog Owners Group (DOG) gave us a copy of their power point presentation which is appended to these minutes (hard copy only).

There was some discussion which included possible sources of funding (membership dues, donations, fund raising) in which DOG asks the Board to consider the possibility of matching funds. There was a question about hours for the dog area since there are immediate neighbors and they indicated that other areas in the city operate from 6 AM to 11 PM. We asked about plans for Mario Lanza dog area. The group is planning on helping to refurbish it as soon as it is no longer frozen. We stressed that they need to be prepared and committed to maintaining and cleaning both Marion Lanza dog area and any temporary area that might be permitted in Weccacoe Playground.

Jeff commended the group for doing an incredible amount of work and expressed our appreciation for their efforts. The group departed and the board began a discussion of their thoughts and concerns regarding dog areas. We felt that free-standing fence and gates need to be robust and that chain link is acceptable. There should be no attachment to the building. There was concern expressed about urination on the building. After much discussion it was agreed that we would have a sub-committee of Walt Lothian, Don Ackerman, Kathy Dilonardo and Ed Bell prepare a resolution as soon as possible for the board to vote on regarding this issue. The resolution, passed on February 27 by email vote (Vote is at the end of this e:mail) of the Board, appears below:

A Resolution Concerning Public Dog Areas in Queen Village

The Board of Directors of the Queen Village Neighbors Association notes the following:

1. The Board affirms its desire to support the efforts of Queen Village residents to establish a Dog Owners Group which will establish, operate and maintain public dog areas subject to approval by the Board, City Department of Recreation, Friends of Mario Lanza Park, and the Friends of Weccacoe Playground consistent with the needs and rights of all residents.
2. The large increase in dog population together with past lack of dog owner participation in maintaining the one designated dog area at Mario Lanza Park has created problems that can be resolved by an active Dog Owners Group focused on the needs of Queen Village.
3. The use by dogs of public and private paved areas and green spaces, particularly causing deterioration of Mario Lanza Park, is an urgent growing problem that must be resolved.
4. The Board recognizes the past, albeit illegal, use of the Weccacoe tennis court as a dog area has demonstrated the desirability from the dog owners' viewpoint of that type area. However, the Board also notes that numerous problems, particularly hygiene and noise, have been consistently unresolved.
5. A single Dog Owners Group is a way to affix responsibility so that the Board of Directors may

negotiate with that entity & support or oppose use of designated dog areas in Queen Village.

With the foregoing in mind the Board makes the following resolution:

1. The Board of Directors will work solely with the Dog Owners Group relative to the establishment, operation and maintenance of dog areas while protecting the rights of all residents of Queen Village, and the Board of Directors agrees to negotiate with the Dog Owners Group a limited conditional 12 month agreement for a temporary dog area in Weccacoe Playground subject to approval by the Department of Recreation as sought by the Board provided:
 - a. The Dog Owners Group completes temporary rehabilitation of the Mario Lanza Park dog area in agreement with The Friends of Mario Lanza Park before use of the Weccacoe Playground dog area commences.
 - b. The Dog Owners Group rules and regulations concerning dog and owner behavior in dog areas as written and enforced by the group are acceptable to the Board.
 - c. Members of the Dog Owners Group agree to abide by the Group rules as well as applicable codes and regulations, and agree to encourage non-member dog owners to do the same.
 - d. The Dog Owners Group develops rules of dog and owner behavior for public areas in addition to the dog areas (including but not limited to Mario Lanza Park and Weccacoe Playground) which Group members follow and encourage non-members to do the same.
 - e. The established dog areas are operated and maintained according to the individual agreements established for each area.
 - f. If there is failure to comply with the negotiated agreement, the Board will oppose the continued use of the dog area and move to close it.
2. The Board of Directors agrees to consider one extension period beyond 12 months after 6 months operation upon the request of the Dog Owners Group provided all dog areas have been operated in a manner acceptable to the Board. If the Dog Owners Group wishes to establish a permanent park anywhere in Queen Village, it should use the period of the temporary dog area at Weccacoe Playground to explore the possibilities and work with the Board to find a permanent site consistent with the needs and rights of the residents.

Meeting Minutes: January minutes were approved with one addition. **Carla will make the addition.**

Jeff suggested that we acknowledge David Auspitz's contributions to Queen Village and the city at the next General Membership Meeting. The Board agreed. **Carla will invite him.**

Treasurer's Report: Carla presented the report and it was approved by the Board.

We were given a 2007 Revenue and Expense Report which shows \$112,000 in expenditures and \$125,000 in revenues. Everyone should take a look at the report and **we will discuss it at the March Board meeting.** Jeff reported that Mike O'Brien's office is discussing giving us \$10,000.

Carla gave us a list of bookings for the Weccacoe Playground building. **Board members need to volunteer to open and close the building.** Please sign up to cover one of the upcoming dates. This is a source of revenue for QVNA.

Transportation Committee: Richard reported that they sent out information to a large email list, seeking people with interests in the Bike Share program, Light Line Transportation System and pedestrian issues. They got 6-7 respondents interested in joining the committee. The Stantek Report (casino traffic report) was discussed. Jeff will follow up with an email to Jeremy to get answers to some questions.

Parking Committee: **Jeff, Andy and Walt will get together to discuss expansion of the parking lot under I-95.** Kathy Conway has noticed a number of potential parking spaces that could become legal spaces if signs were moved slightly. She suggested that there be a request put in the *Crier* for anyone who observes such a spot to report it to QVNA. We were reminded that a survey was done by a QVNA parking sub-committee last year that identified many such spaces but the Parking Authority has not followed through to make those spaces available. **Jeff** noted that he goes to a regular meeting in the Managing Director's Office and he **will suggest that the Parking Authority** (currently under the State) **be invited to the meetings**, which they attended when they were a city agency. In addition, **Walt will contact the Parking Authority about completing the conversion of parking spaces. Walt is to let Jeff know if he encounters any problems from the Parking Authority.** Kathy Conway noted that Society Hill is now parking two blocks into Queen Village, but Queen Village has been limited to one block into Society Hill thus reducing the spaces available to Queen Village residents. Jeff will bring this up at the regular meetings in the Managing Director's office.

Jeff reminded everyone that in March, the streetscape program will begin on South Street to replace sidewalks, add trees, etc. They will work on one side of the street at a time at a time.

Jeff suggested the board consider passing a resolution expressing support for the proposed development in Society Hill called Stampers ' Square since the Society Hill Civic Association is going to vote on it shortly. It is a 4 Star hotel/condominium complex on our northern border. The board decided that we needed to find out more about the project as well as how Queen Village residents feel about it. **Jeff will write an article in the March Crier to give residents an overview of the proposed high rise.**

Rick Cole reported that the **Conservation District** guidelines were introduced at City Council by Councilman DiCicco on January 31. It will take several weeks for it to get to the floor for a vote, but at least it is moving now. All residents will get a chance to vote on it.

New Business:

Richard suggested that **we all work more actively to register Queen Village voters so that they are eligible to vote in QVNA elections.** He suggested that we have registration forms at every General Meeting and that we all take forms to the QVNA committee meetings that we participate in so that we can register more residents. We were also encouraged to suggest that people get on the email list. (They need to sign themselves up on line.)

Procedures: We had intended to talk about a variety of issues and procedures for the board, (issues of how committees run, protocol for letters going out over individual signatures, appointments of committee chairs, how responsibility is shifted from one committee to another, voting, especially over email, etc.) We tabled this until the March meeting due to the late hour. It is to be first on the agenda at the March Board meeting, so we will not invite anyone to give any presentations at the beginning of that meeting so there is time to discuss this fully.

Penn Village: Bill Landy gave us material to read. This program is to help people (older or with disabilities) stay in their houses. He will be attending several meetings on the subject and will report on them in our March meeting.

Casinos: This remains a serious concern. House Bill 1840 would eliminate the 10 mile limit for racinos and thus potentially open the door to moving the casinos to the vicinity of the airport.

Walt reported on **Weccacoe Playground**. He is going to begin to get the tennis players together to form a group. He has been in contact with the man who runs the tennis court program at Seger Playground. Jeff reported that there may be money to refinish the tennis court surface.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo

Recording Secretary

Enclosure: Hard copy of Power Point presentation by Dog Owners Group

E:Mail vote count for Dog Resolution which is shown below as sent to Board members

I vote to approve the resolution. Don

----- Original message -----

From: jrush2010@aol.com

By my count the resolution has passed. Walt, please take whatever steps you feel are appropriate to move this along. Carla, the signs citing the regs go up on March 1st, as planned.

Thanks,
Jeff

I approve the resolution.
Walt

-----Original Message-----

From: kathydilon@aol.com
To: jrush2010@aol.com; rcole@rmcoleassoc.com; visard@erols.com
Cc: WLowthian@aol.com; DavidWilliam@comcast.net; info@qvna.org; speizmaa@preit.com; mhauptman@brawerhauptman.com; jamesmarkham@gmail.com; nvakharia@pewtrusts.org; marianbuczek@premierreo.net; wflandy@hotmail.com; dack2001@comcast.net; richardwolk@comcast.net; kathy@conwayteam.com
Sent: Tue, 26 Feb 2008 11:03 pm
Subject: Re: Dog resolution/please comment

I vote to approve the resolution.

Kathy Dilonardo

I vote yes
Richard

200 Christian St #20
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Phone/Fax: 215-271-2437
richardwolk@comcast.net

----- Original message -----
From: "Neville K. Vakharia" <nvakharia@pewtrusts.org>

I vote to approve.

Neville Vakharia
Project Manager, Pennsylvania Cultural Data Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
215-575-4873
www.pacdp.org

-----Original Message-----
From: David O'Donnell [mailto:davidwilliam@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 07:17 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Rick Cole; Edward Bell; jrush2010@aol.com
Cc: WLowthian@aol.com; KathyDilon@aol.com; info@qvna.org; speizmaa@preit.com; mhauptman@brawerhauptman.com; jamesmarkham@gmail.com; Neville K. Vakharia; marianbuczek@premierreo.net; wflandy@hotmail.com; dack2001@comcast.net; richardwolk@comcast.net; kathy@conwayteam.com
Subject: Re: Dog resolution/please comment

I vote to approve.... David

I agree with Rick and Ed. --Mike

Rick Cole <rcole@rmcoleassoc.com> wrote:

I vote to approve the resolution, with typo's corrected as others have stated.

--RICK

Richard M. Cole, AIA, PE

Richard M. Cole & Associates
15 South Third Street, 3rd. Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Tele.: 215-922-6930
Fax: 215-922-4549

From: Edward Bell [<mailto:visard@erols.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 9:54 AM

To: jrush2010@aol.com

Cc: Edward Bell; WLowthian@aol.com; DavidWilliam@comcast.net; KathyDilon@aol.com; info@qvna.org; speizmaa@preit.com; mhauptman@brawerhauptman.com; jamesmarkham@gmail.com; nvakharia@pewtrusts.org; Rick Cole; marianbuczek@premierreo.net; wflandy@hotmail.com; dack2001@comcast.net; richardwolk@comcast.net; kathy@conwayteam.com

Subject: Re: Dog resolution/please comment

Jeff, et al:

I vote to approve with the understanding that typos are corrected.

Ed

On Feb 25, 2008, at 4:04 PM, jrush2010@aol.com wrote:

To all Board Members

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