

## Queen Village Board Meeting minutes—February 5, 2009

**Present:** Jeff Rush, David O'Donnell, Bill Landy, Steve Schatz, Don Ackerman, Walt Lowthian, Kathy Dilonardo, Richard Wolk, Kathy Conroy (Emeritus)

**Not Present:** Andy Speizman, Rick Cole, Ed Bell, Neville Vakharia,

**Minutes:** Richard moved the minutes be approved and David seconded; it was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** We reviewed the report. We discussed whether we wanted to continue sidewalk cleaning on the numbered streets (north/south). We decided that we need to look at all the possible expenditures at the same time, and prioritize them. We will do this at the next meeting. In the meantime, Don moved and Bill seconded that we put \$15,000 in an accessible Money Market account so that it is collecting interest. The motion was approved. Carla will work with Andy to choose the best place for the funds.

### Executive Director's Report:

#### A. DCED Grants update

\$5000 DCED Grant for Mario Lanza Park has been granted. Check will be issued within 6-8 weeks.

Carla called Mary Isaacson, legislative assistant to Mike O'Brien and asked about applying for \$10,000 grant. She conferred with Mike and directed us to apply for a \$5000 grant. Carla submitted grant application in late January (process takes 5-6 months)

**B. S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.** Ted Warren provided Carla with a list of problems related to Washington Steaks at 5<sup>th</sup> and Washington Street. Carla has written a letter to the owners requesting that they take action to correct.

**C.Suggested Feb general meeting invite:** David asked to postpone inviting Alan Butkovitz to the Feb. meeting to allow time for his tax committee to meet. We can invite for March or April.

#### D.Weccacoe Improvements list.

Carla is getting estimates for discussion at the March meeting.

**E.Open House Tour 09 cancelled:** Friends of Independence National Historical Park has they will not run the city-wide Open House tours this year. They are planning on the tours every other year and will spend this year re-grouping and planning.

The financial loss for QVNA is not overwhelming---Below are income and expenses from Open House. Open House Tour Income history last few years:

Year	Gross income	Expenses	Net income
2005	\$1008	\$378	\$630.00 (60%/40% split)
2006	\$910	\$312	598.00 "
2007	\$1144	\$260	884.00 "
2008	\$2403	\$238	2165.00 (split changed to 80%/20%)

(We also had an increase in tourgoers in 2008 over 2006 and 2007)

Carla does think that it is very much a loss as a community event—homeowners and house sitters who participated (around 45 people/year) always remark about how they meet neighborhood people whom they would not meet otherwise

Carla suggested QVNA 2009 spring event substitute: “Queen Village Stories: An evening with Marty Labb and others” and she volunteered to be one of the chairs. Marty Labb, who opens up St. Philip Neri every month for us, is a great story teller---and he *has* stories to tell of growing up on Second Street. The idea is a kind of wine, beer, and cheese afternoon or evening where Marty and perhaps one or two others, talk about growing up in QV before it was QV. Carla spoke with Al Dorof, new co-chair of the Historic Preservation Committee and he is all for it. We could also pull in David’s Welcoming Committee. Kathy moved we adopt Carla’s proposal, Walt seconded it and the motion was approved.

**F. Preservation Alliance of Greater Phila. will do another series of workshops at Weccacoe:**

**Energy and Resource Efficiency in Older Houses**

-Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 PM

**Masonry and Lime Mortars**

-Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 PM

**Insuring Older and Historic Homes**

-Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 PM

**Repairing Historic Windows and Replacement Options**

-Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 PM

**Committee Reports:**

**Casinos:** SugarHouse has not made any requests for the permits it needs and Foxwoods has not produced any drawings of their Market East proposal. The city is moving on zoning overlays for the waterfront.

At this point Kathy (Recording Secretary) needed to leave the meeting and Carla recorded the minutes for the balance of the meeting.

**Clean Streets Committee** Carla reported for Ed, who will head the committee. Buddy Martin, from Philadelphia More Beautiful will come to the February general meeting. We hope that he will help rally residents to organize their own blocks and to participate in the community day cleanups. We discussed whether or not to ask Citizens Alliance (CA) for help and agreed that Carla will contact Christian DiCicco and inquire whether CA has access to a street sweeper, how that might work, and whether there are other ways in which CA might help QV with cleaning issues.

**Proposed Dog Park and Agreement.** Walt has a meeting scheduled with Amy Shelanski for the week of Feb. 9 to review the draft agreement. Walt and Carla will meet at proposed site with QV Dogs representatives and Julie Snell, PHS Project Manager who oversees those strips of land, to discuss viability of grass surface and related concerns. Walt stated his concerns about viability of a grass surface, stating that the type of surface should be resolved from the beginning. Jeff and Don suggested that the Board express

those concerns to QV Dogs, but leave it to them to deal with it as the project moves forward. This is an asset to the many dog owners in the community, but Jeff noted the importance of accommodating Old Swede's church request to move the site to southern end. Walt noted that he might need legal help in drawing up the agreement. Carla volunteered to contact Schuylkill River Dog Park and Seger Park Dog Run reps. to see if they used lawyers in working up their rules, etc.

Walt noted the increase in dog owners using the tennis court again as an off-leash area. Carla is to contact Lieut. McShea to request that bike patrols swing by, esp. between 9 and 9:30 p.m.

**Transportation Committee** Richard reported that he had had limited response from Councilman DiCicco regarding the 12 Transportation Committee recommendations sent to him (most of the recommendations concerned improving traffic flow on Washington Ave, so that drivers would gravitate away from using Christian Street). Discussion followed as to next steps and it was agreed, in the end, to invite DiCicco to the March Board meeting

**Tax Committee.** David noted that Mayor Nutter recently stated that he wanted full value tax re-assessments. David stated that the committee is opposed to full value re-assessments (he gave specific examples of homes in QV and of the possible effects). David asked that the Board make a resolution to that end. Discussion ensued –inequities of spot re-evaluations, massive increases all at once, seniors on fixed incomes hardest hit. Jeff suggested that the Board should articulate its stand in keeping with the will of the majority of QV residents. All agreed that the March general meeting will be devoted to taxes—Mayor Nutter and others will be invited.

**CDAG—Community Development Advisory Group**—Jeff informed us that this is the new neighborhood advisory group----Jeff noted that Mike Hauptman has been elected to the new Board for the Delaware (formerly Penn's Landing Board)—the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. He also noted the open Board seat and requested that Mike be appointed to that position. The Board unanimously supported that request.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo, Recording Secretary  
Carla Puppini, Executive Director