

**Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—Thursday, January 10, 2008
(the meeting date was one week later due to the New Year’s holiday.)**

In Attendance: Jeff Rush, Carla Puppin, Walt Lothian, Don Ackerman, Kathy Dilonardo, Richard Wolk, Bill Landy, Jim Markham, David O’Donnell, Rick Cole, Mike Hauptman, Ed Bell, Neville Vakharia, Kathy Conway

Not Present: Andrew Speizman

Visitors: Kip Wade, Clayton Badewell

Mr. Wade spoke briefly about his concern with the dogs barking beginning as early as 6:45 AM on the Weccacoe Playground tennis court. He lives across the street from the tennis court. He offered his help in rebuilding Mario Lanza dog run or construction of another dog run at an agreed upon site. The board thanked Mr. Wade for his comments. Mr. Badewell did not speak. They then left the meeting.

Sound Barriers: Jeff, Walt and David attended the meeting earlier in the evening held by PennDot regarding finishing the sound barriers along I-95 from Christian to Washington Avenue in Queen Village and all the way through Pennsport. The neighborhood is allowed to choose the style so **Jeff asked Jim to contact Scott at Shot Tower and to use the Shot Tower Committee to canvas the neighborhood to get their input on the style of barriers. David will contact Old Swede’s Church to get their input.**

Work will begin in the spring of 2009 (has to go through the bid process) and will take 9 months to complete. PennDot will work with us so that the parking lot remains accessible and problems are minimized. Users must be able to get in and out safely and we need to maintain this revenue stream. There will be trees and landscaping along Front Street. Give David any input you have in selecting locations for trees.

Meeting Minutes: Richard made a motion to accept the November 2007 minutes, as amended and the December 2007 minutes as written. David seconded it and it was accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: Carla presented the report, Rick moved to accept it, Mike seconded it and it was accepted. Jim suggested that we start making a budget. **Carla will contact Andy with that request.**

Executive Director’s Report: Carla reviewed the report. **Everyone should review their name on the list of Board members and give her any corrections. Walt volunteered to open and close the meeting room on Sunday January 20th.** Carla needs a volunteer for Saturday February 16, 2-7 PM. **Jeff suggested that we send a letter to Councilman DiCicco thanking him for his help in getting the \$10,000 grant for Beck Park. We agreed. David and Bill are putting together an**

informational packet to take to the condos on Gaskill Street to let them know more about Queen Village, the neighbors association, services available, opportunities to volunteer, etc. (and that they are within the boundaries of Queen Village).

Zoning: Rick reported that it is relatively quiet. Jeff noted that David Auspitz, head of the City Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) will be missed and suggested that we write a letter to him recognizing his service to the city. We agreed to do that. David noted that the owners of what was Tori's Restaurant on Front at Bainbridge Streets had been denied the request to tear down a major portion of the structure to build a modern addition. It is on the Historic Register so any changes should be in keeping with that designation.

Taxes: David reported that the Board of Revision of Taxes (BRT) had removed the idea of full assessment from the table. That will not be happening. There was no way to administer it so that some home owners would not be overwhelmed with a high tax bill and potentially lose their homes.

Transportation: Richard asked for time at the General Meeting to introduce himself as new chair of the committee, review its purpose, share time and dates of meetings and to ask for volunteers. He also made a motion to make the Parking subcommittee a standing committee. David seconded the motion and it was accepted.

Parking: All the spaces in the lot are rented at this time. Opening Phase II at the southern end is important. **Jeff asked Walt and the committee to focus on getting phase II operational as soon as possible.**

Plastics/Mixed Paper recycling: The monthly pick-up of plastics and mixed paper has ended. The city has begun picking these items up every other week on Fridays. There was a question as to whether or not such recycling was picked up from condos. **Richard volunteered to call Brian Abernathy to clarify whether recycling is picked up from condos.** Next year we want to arrange for a recycling truck to pick up area Christmas trees.

Public Safety: The General Meeting on January 17 will be "Eyes and Ears" with Town Watch. Town Watch started walking December 27, 2007 in the neighborhood. They need more volunteers, especially from west of Third Street.

Neighborhood Conservation District: Rick reported that the proposals await action by City Council, then residents will vote on it. It was decided that since it has been awhile since anything had happened, that an update would be prepared for the next *Crier*.

Web/Computer Development: 1200 people are on the mailing list and receive each eblast. Since it is a quick way to communicate with many neighbors, we'd like to increase the number of people reached with each eblast. The next *Crier* will contain a suggestion and instructions for people to sign up. Jim said he had 150 people on a separate email list that he maintains that are

specifically interested in transportation. Neville said he could create a place for them to sign up to receive info on a specific topic such as transportation since it is possible to have targeted email distribution to those who want to receive information on a specific topic.

Tree Tenders: Carla said there was nothing to report.

Nuisance Noise: Steve Schatz handled one complaint about a bar on South Street.

Historic Preservation: David asked for authority to purchase a new locking three drawer file cabinet so the committee could start the Queen Village historic archives. We agreed he should purchase the file cabinet.

Weccacoe Playground: There was a review of the issue of dog owners using the tennis court as a dog run. There are noise issues (especially early in the morning and late at night), damage to the court surface and net, failure to pick up feces, puddles of urine, difficulty washing away the urine (stains and smell) and availability for tennis players. A number of informal attempts to find solutions to the problems have either not been successful or sustainable. The board has offered to help a nascent dog committee determine potential sites for a dog run, locate potential grant funding sources and/or find ways to improve the dog run at Mario Lanza Park. It was felt that the informal process was not leading to sustained solutions, and by city regulation the court is not for dogs (it's hard to justify requests for replacements and repairs to the Department of Recreation when dogs are allowed on the court against City regulations) so Walt proposed a resolution that: "Whereas dog use of the Weccacoe tennis court is an improper use of the tennis court and is contrary to Department of Recreation regulations, and has generated increasing complaints concerning sanitation, court surface wear, and noise and, whereas attempts to clean the court and to restrain barking particularly in the early morning have not been successful, the QVNA Board of Directors resolves the following:

1. The QVNA will request the Department of Recreation install its standard regulation sign stating the tennis court rules and to place the sign the first week of March 2008.
2. That a sign advising of the above request be posted at the tennis court as soon as possible.
3. That QVNA is sympathetic to the community need in this regard and will work with and support efforts by dog owners organized to upgrade and establish areas designated for off-leash dog exercise and play."

It was seconded by David and passed unanimously. There are 3 articles on this topic in this month's *Crier*.

Casinos: The Street administration gave Sugar House a grading permit the last day of its administration. Michael Nutter, the new Mayor is asking for a specific review of all permits granted by the Street administration and a general review of the entire issue casinos in the city at the currently proposed locations. Jeff has drafted a letter to Nutter stating the views of Queen Village Neighbors Association and circulated it to Board members for review prior to the meeting. The board agreed that the letter should be sent as written.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo

Recording Secretary