

## Queen Village Board Meeting minutes—January 8, 2009

**Present:** Jeff Rush, David O'Donnell, Bill Landy, Andy Speizman, Rick Cole, Ed Bell, Don Ackerman, Walt Lowthian, Neville Vakharia, Kathy Dilonardo, Kathy Conroy (Emeritus)

**Not Present:** Richard Wolk

**Minutes:** Rick moved the minutes be approved and David seconded it. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** We reviewed the report. Don moved we accept it, David seconded it and the motion was approved. Andy had prepared a budget for 2009. In the past, QVNA has had a grant for (sidewalk or street cleaning) cleaning the numbered streets (Front through 5<sup>th</sup>-South to Washington) but we do not have that this year. Carla will check to find out the DCED grant cycle and try to get a sense of whether there will potentially be funds for such things this year. Carla will also check with Representative O'Brien's office about funds. Kathy C noted that Head House Conservancy has successfully used grant writers to secure funds for a variety of projects. Carla will ask for volunteers with grant writing experience through an email, the *Crier*, and the General Membership meeting. She will also get a price for adding sidewalk cleaning to the cross streets. We also decided to revitalize the Clean Streets Committee. Ed volunteered to take the lead on that. Kathy D will assist on that.

**Executive Director's Report:** Larissa Cahill will not be able to open and close the Weccacoe building in the future. Carla will "advertise" the job opportunity through email, the *Crier* and announcements at the General Membership meeting.

Barbara Cook, who does our taxes, has reminded us that a lot of regulations are changing in 2009 which could affect non-profits.

Comptroller Alan Butkowitz can speak at the February General meeting. **Carla will call to set it up.**

The Christmas party was lightly attended this year. We may want to consider if there is some other type of party or get together that we want to sponsor such as something that would include activities for families with children. Carla will talk with Friends of Mario Lanza Park. The soda and wine that was left over will be used for the Open House party for volunteers.

Carla will have the Weccacoe improvements list at the February meeting.

The Forgotten Blocks Committee continues working on concerns in the 5<sup>th</sup> street corridor. Demolitions are continuing on 5<sup>th</sup> street which has improved conditions on S. Reese Street. There are concerns about activities at 5<sup>th</sup> and Washington at Washington Steaks. Carla will check with Nick Schamanek, Community Liaison for Councilman DiCicco's office as well as Ted Warren to see what is on the record. Depending on the results QVNA will follow-up with letters to either principals involved or the agencies involved to register our interest and encourage further appropriate action. Elva Thomas, manager at Riverview Courtyard reported another eviction in progress. New lighting is being installed in the parking lot on the 5<sup>th</sup> street side of the Courtyard. The Zoning committee will be hearing proposals for 2 new homes in the 500 block of Carpenter Street.

Carla provided a recap of community grants given out in the last few years.

**Historic Preservation Committee:** After founding the committee and serving as chairman, David is going to step down from chairmanship of the committee. Jeff nominated Al Dorof to serve as the new chair. Jean Barr will serve as co-chair. Bill seconded the nomination and the motion was approved.

**Committees:** We have number of active and productive committees that are working on a number of specific issues and subject matter –all to help make our community safer, cleaner, more attractive, historic and interesting. Board members serve on some of them and thus serve as a liaison to the board. Some committees have no board members on them so the board is not as tuned in to what their needs are, what progress they are making or roadblocks they have hit and thus can't assist with contacts, resources, etc. Since they are committees of the board, we need to be up to date on their objectives and progress. In an effort to stay up to date and provide more assistance, we talked about establishing some guidelines that would help achieve this. Carla said the Strategic Planning Committee had written a draft of guidelines for committees. **We asked her to email the draft so all could read it and we will discuss it at the February meeting.**

**Queen Village Dogs:** Walt is putting together a draft agreement. He asked the Board how what procedures should be used to register a complaint by residents or by observation of a Board member. We need to identify all the needs each side has, including how it would revert back from a dog park should there be problems. When that is done, we make a recommendation to ILMAC that the area be used as a dog park. The upcoming January General Membership meeting will have time devoted to the dog issue. We will flier the houses in the immediate vicinity prior to the meeting to make certain they are aware of the discussion.

**South St/Headhouse Association:** Elections were held recently. Carla will prepare a letter to the new Chair congratulating him and offering to work together in any ways that enhance the community.

**Gratitude to Jim Markham:** Jim completed his term at the end of December. We very much appreciate all the time and energy he devoted to the Board and to neighborhood issues. His leadership and contributions to the Transportation committee helped to move many important issues to the fore for discussion and action. The recent installation of the bike racks throughout Queen Village is an example of his leadership. Thank you, Jim. We hope you will consider returning to the Board in the future.

**Board Seats:** We discussed possible candidates to fill vacant board seats.

Everyone was reminded that we should be attending both Board meetings and General Membership meetings to stay abreast of concerns and problems in the community.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo, Recording Secretary

