

## **QVNA Board Meeting MINUTES Thursday, January 8, 2014**

**Present:** Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Duncan Spencer, Eleanor Ingersoll, Maria Roberts, Sean Edwards, Ben Schindler, Jonathan Rubin, Carla Puppini (Executive Director)

**Guests:** James Weber, Erica Nelson

**Absent:** Frank Tavani, Amy Grant, Lauren Leonard, Cindy Elliott

1. **Minutes.** With minor corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Duncan, seconded by Amy Shelanski. Approved
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Ben noted that the restricted funds (plus \$300 that still needs to be deposited) are now held in the TD Bank Account. Actual income this past month was \$3000. In the Profit and Loss comparison of 2013-2014, he noted that the parking lot brought in \$4000 more in 2014. The budget for 2015 that Ben presented at the December meeting has some variables. He has it ready, and will send it out soon for approval. It will then go on the web site and in the QVNA magazine. Jeff noted that fundraising contributions increased in 2014 and Maria added that there had not been an aggressive outreach.

Sean made a motion to approve the minutes, Eleanor seconded. All approved.

### **President's Report**

Jeff thanked everyone involved for putting together an excellent holiday party. He noted that it was a good model and that the recognition piece worked fairly well.

- **Dog Waste Program:** The problems with the program were noted: waste cans are falling down, they are not emptied enough and overflow, there does not seem to be a volunteer system in place that can take care of all the cans. Jeff has had a few emails back and forth with Honey about this. Amy Sh. Noted that Pennsport has well-built waste cans. A discussion followed on the pros and cons of having a third party empty the cans. Carla was asked to get a quote from LRC. Jeff noted that the Board needs to resolve this—should the containers be replaced or should they be taken out completely? Maria's concern is that any program/project should not be put into place unless there is a clear plan for maintenance. From all accounts, QVK9 does not want to assume responsibility for this program. It was agreed that the February General Meeting would be devoted to dogs. Jeff and Amy Sh. will plan the meeting.

- March General Meeting topic: It will be a joint meeting with South Street Headhouse District to discuss the future of Fourth Street—perhaps a charrette type of meeting; invite owners of businesses.
- The Hiring Committee has a draft of the Executive Director job description and will post it soon.
- Hungry Pigeon (Is a double transfer of Place to Place and Person to Person): The December 8 meeting with residents was well attended. QVNA's aim is to get a good faith agreement that everyone can live with. Bob Theil (Senator Farnese legislative aide) pointed out at the meeting that 99% of liquor licenses are granted by the Liquor Control Board (LCB). The most risk-averse position in this case is to agree to a Conditional Licensing Agreement (CLA). The owners could decide to go for an unrestricted license and go directly to the LCB; a Petition to Intervene gets the owners to the table. Jeff will set up a small negotiating committee with the owners and with Mike Harris. In the end, the LCB decides whether it's meritorious to hold a hearing. Meredith School is not getting involved.

There followed a general discussion about Liquor Licenses. In relation to the Hungry Pigeon, neighbors are concerned about the precedent set for hours, etc. The owners have agreed to restrictions of 11 pm. during weekdays and midnight on weekends. Duncan stated that the precedents go both ways and is concerned that the restrictions are too limiting. He noted that when gentrification sets in, businesses tend to get eliminated. Jeff noted that QVNA is trying to balance: the needs of near neighbors for their quality of life issues, the needs of business owners to have a successful business, and the need of a wider community to have a vibrant community.

Jeff wrote up a resolution that seeks to address these three issues :

#### **RESOLUTION IN RE PROPOSED HUNGRY PIGEON RESTAURANT**

Whereas Queen Village Neighbors Association exists to enhance the quality of life in Philadelphia's oldest neighborhood; and

Whereas, part of what has made and continues to make Queen Village a vibrant urban neighborhood is its mixed use character and abundance of local commercial establishments woven into the fabric of the community; and

Whereas, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of Queen Village Neighbors Association, the proposed Hungry Pigeon licensed restaurant at 743 South 4th Street seems to be well-suited to the character of the neighborhood; and

Whereas, there are near neighbors to the proposed project who have raised legitimate concerns about the impact of the proposed licensed establishment on their quality of life; and

Whereas, QVNA aims to balance the concerns of the near neighbors regarding a licensed establishment with the rights of responsible property owners to conduct

business, as well as the interests of the broader community to enhance the vibrancy of neighborhood commercial corridors; and

Whereas, the QVNA Board has solicited input from the community at two public meetings as well as through numerous individual conversations and email exchanges; and

Whereas, it is the default policy of the QVNA Board of Directors to support the negotiation of Conditional Licensing Agreements (CLA) with responsible applicants for liquor licenses;

Therefore be it resolved that the QVNA Board authorizes the QVNA President to facilitate the negotiation of a CLA that is mutually acceptable to both the near neighbors and the principals of the proposed Hungry Pigeon; and

That the final CLA be presented to the Board no later than its regularly scheduled February Board meeting.

Erica (guest) had concerns re the notion of “good neighbor”—not a legal enforceable agreement. Jeff related Mike Harris’s comment that the biggest problem on South Street is absentee landlords.

With some minor edits, a vote was taken on the resolution by Amy Sh., seconded by Maria. All approved.

**The Board Retreat** will take place on January 17, 9 a.m. to 1 pm.

#### **Executive Director’s Report**

Carla reported that fundraising for 2014 for the Annual Fund brought in \$7,646.58

She stated that since she would be leaving by April 1, it was not realistic for her to run the Open House Tour, which traditionally has taken place the first weekend in May. She will check with the Open House Committee to see if any of the members would be interested in assuming responsibility for the tour. In any case, she is writing up a task list and timeline for doing the tour, so that someone else will have a framework should it be resumed at some point.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Bainbridge Green. Jonathan reported that Bike Share is coming and that 4<sup>th</sup> and Bainbridge is one of the sites chosen for a bike station.
- Quality of Life. Lauren was not present to report.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carla Puppini, substituting for Cindy Elliott

