

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—July 10, 2008 (date changed from July 3 due to holiday.)

In Attendance: Jim Markham , Rick Cole, Jeff Rush, Kathy Dilonardo, Mike Hauptman, Don Ackerman, Walt Lowthian , Andrew Speizman, Bill Landy, and Kathy Conway (Emeritus)

Not Present: David O'Donnell, Neville Vakharia, , Richard Wolk, Ed Bell,

We were encouraged by the letter the mayor wrote concerning casinos which says that there are too many issues regarding the current proposed locations. This position is a key difference between the Street and Nutter administrations. They have an even chance of moving now. It would be better for the city if the costs were minimized by going to other locations. There is now an alternative vision for the waterfront in which casinos are incompatible. That alternative vision could also be an economic engine; communities are united against the current locations. We are in the best shape we have been in on this issue. Penn Praxis is charged with looking at the issue and is to report back in 60 days to the mayor. It is to our advantage that oil is up (many patrons would be coming by car) and credit markets are tight, the cost of materials is going up—if they want to get them fast, they need to move them. We need to think about whether there is anything Queen Village can do—lawsuits, fax banks, maybe a rally, etc.

Minutes: Rick moved we accept the minutes, Mike seconded and they were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We have a good balance in our account. We will close the Commerce account and return the balance to the general fund. We will maintain a separate line item for the casino funds. **Don, Andy and Carla will form a committee to identify the amount we need to routinely operate and also identify the amount we could set aside in a reserve account to work for us. Jeff asked that they do this and report back to the September meeting.** Rick moved we accept the Treasurer's Report and Don seconded. Minutes were approved. In the discussion, we asked if we should be doing any projects and whether we should be doing community planning so that we look at the whole community and its needs and projects can determined and put in a priority order.

Report on Weccacoe Playground Building after One Year of Use by QVNA: Carla presented a summary of the improvements we have made to the building, the uses it's getting in the community and its potential. **Jeff asked Carla to write up a report and send it to the Department of Recreation so they can see how much use it's getting.** He thanked Carla and recognized Walt for making our use of the building work so well. Carla noted that the building has the potential gradually to be made a greener more sustainable building.

DCED Grant: Mario Lanza Park received a \$5000 grant from DCED.an area along Front Street

Dog Run: The Dog Owners Group (DOG) is discussing the possibility of a dog run along Front Street. We decided that the Board should hear plans about it at the September meeting, and invite Front Street residents since they would be directly affected and then make plans to have a public meeting shortly thereafter. So the September Board meeting will start at 6:30, we will conclude all other business by 8:00 pm and then have the DOG do a half hour presentation.

Zoning: The Neighborhood Conservation District was passed by City Council unanimously. Queen Village is now the first Neighborhood Conservation District in the city!

Mike indicated that the Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) granted a variance after the QVNA Zoning committee had opposed it with a letter explaining why. The QVNA Zoning Board is trying to set up a meeting with ZBA to find out why since this variance was allowed because it caused a significant intrusion on neighboring properties.

We will also send a letter to invite the ZBA Chair to attend a General Membership Meeting hosted by our Zoning Committee. **Mike and Carla will work on this invitation.**

Proposed Resolutions on Procedures: Everyone was asked to look at the proposed resolutions and respond with comments by August 1. Don reminded us that part of the reason we are addressing this is because the By-Laws do not necessarily address how they are to be carried out; we should have identifiable and consistent processes for committees, email votes and writing and sending letters referencing or signing as board members. A committee was formed to look at the proposed resolutions and the comments and rewrite the procedures accordingly to expedite the Board's movement on the resolutions. **The board members who volunteered to serve on the committee are Jim, Bill, Walt, Don, Kathy, and Jeff.**

UNSYS Sign on Liberty Place: A sign is proposed by a new tenant in Liberty Place which would be high on the side of the building and quite large. We agreed to write a letter in support of Logan Square Civic Association and Center City Civic Association's opposition to the sign and accompanying lights. **Jeff will send a draft letter to the board members and we should return our comments to him.**

Parking Lot: The 88 spaces are currently oversold. Jeff wants to sit down with Parkway Corporation and talk about expanding the lot. He asked Andy if he would arrange that meeting.

August Meetings: It was decided that we would have neither an August General Membership meeting nor an August Board meeting. The next meeting of each will be on their respective dates in September.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo

Recording Secretary