

QVNA Board Meeting

June 4, 2015

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Amy Grant, Eleanor Ingersoll, Lauren Leonard, Maria Roberts, Peter Ross, Jonathan Rubin, Duncan Spencer, Frank Tavani, Yael Levin (Director)

Not Present: Sean Edwards

Guests: Lily Goodspeed (VISTA volunteer), Ellen Wuster and Betty Borodiak (Friends of Front Street Gateway), Sarina Chernock (Better Tomorrows) and Matt Weaver

1. Minutes. The draft minutes for the May 7, 2015 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as modified.

***Peter Ross moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Duncan Spencer seconded the motion and the minutes were approved via unanimous voice vote.**

2. Financials. Ben reported that Parkway's check hasn't been deposited and the invoice from ILMC for the parking lot rent hasn't been received/paid yet, so the financials are incomplete at this time. Ben will clean up some other glitches and circulate revised financials to the Board via email. Ben and Yael are working toward a better recording and reporting process.

3. President's Report.

a. Liquor Licenses. Jeff Hornstein reported that The Hungry Pigeon license is done and said that George Farrell of Senator Farnese's office helped us close the negotiations 6-7 months earlier than expected. Jeff believes the BeerLOVE agreement should be signed within a couple of days. Jeff and Eleanor Ingersoll met with the owners of Plenty and advised them that the proposed CLA will include Meredith School's request that no alcohol be served before 5:00.

b. Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition. Jeff advised that the Coalition will be proposing a citywide public relations campaign around education. The Coalition's annual meeting was on Monday; Jeff was re-elected as vice chair, Steve Huntington is Chair. The Coalition has recruited Fairmount, Mayfair and Homesburg civic associations. There are 55 schools that are part of Friends of Neighborhood Schools group, which is helping others set up Friends of (School) groups. Meetings of the Coalition are held once a month and there are a variety of subcommittees. Jeff asked one or more Board members to also attend the meetings.

On a related note, Jeff reported that Darrel Clarke is floating a bill that would radically change the way RCO's work in the zoning process and make them subject to certain city rules.

4. Director's Report. Yael Levin reported that she has been busy on Camp Courtyard and streamlining the way the office works. She has also been reaching out to people that the Board has identified.

5. Committees

a. Schools & Youth. Eleanor circulated the Camp Courtyard hand-out. Academics will be presented on Tuesdays and field trips will be held on Wednesdays. GlaxoSmithKline is coming on Tuesdays for a science presentation. Shot Tower director, Mike Thompson, said the Camp could have the park on Tuesday afternoons. Lily Goodspeed is working with Eleanor on this project. Field trips that require bus transportation will cost about \$250 round trip. Field Trips are planned for Magic Gardens (no bus needed), The Philadelphia Zoo, The Franklin Institute (Yael has arranged for waiver of the lunchroom fee, free admission for chaperones, and a \$6.50 charge per child) and City Hall. The Academy of Natural Sciences has an "Academy on the Go" program that comes to the kids, so no bus will be needed for that program. Courtyard organizer Barry Perrin asked that we arrange a trip to Clementon Park in New Jersey, but this program will be pricey. Eleanor would like to give any money left over to that activity, but Jeff suggested that we try to raise what's needed.

There are 35 kids enrolled in the program, aged 6-12. The program will be held from 9:00-3:00. Eleanor needs two volunteers a day, or two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Sarina Chernock thinks Better Tomorrows might be able to help with the program. Plans will be solidified within the next week and publicized in the enewsletter.

b. Friends of Bainbridge Green. Jonathan Rubin reported that FOBG received the results of its traffic study, which has been presented to the Department of Parks & Recreation. The plans will change parking and traffic flow. Jonathan illustrated three scenarios that landscape architect OLIN created and discussed which parking spots would be lost and which would be added, noting that there will be a net loss of 5 spots. FOBG wants to introduce the traffic pattern changes slowly, in stages. The first step would be to convert the 4th St round-about area into a small parklet. The Board discussed the car and pedestrian traffic problems around 4th and Bainbridge with the median in the middle and the proposed one-way-south direction of Passyunk between South and Bainbridge. Jonathan is looking for a \$2500 grant to pay business development strategist Kate Wilhelm Chemicles of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, with the goal of raising \$300,000 for the design documents. FOBG will have another fundraiser in October.

c. Friends of Front Street Gateway. Maria Roberts introduced Gateway participants Ellen Wuster and Betty Borodiak. Maria noted that Jeff has received a copy of the project designs. The group will make a formal presentation to the Board in September; it is currently tying down the last details. Maria asked for Yael's help in understanding the group's grant and compliance requirements. Yael says the grant provides for QVNA to be paid once a month by the State, and that the grant term is October 2014 through June 2016. The grant covers 85% of the project, up to \$50,000. The group is to submit invoices and the grant will pay 85% back to us. There is a meeting planned on this coming Monday with

neighbors, Yael and Ben. Ellen raised issue about ILMC approving the project in writing. Jeff attended the ILMC community meeting, where the ILMC treasurer asked for a copy of the grant and application, but Jeff said we only need to provide a summary. ILMC's main concern is that, as owner of the property, whatever is done won't cost ILMC more to maintain than what it currently costs, within reason. Amy Shelanski asked what the ILMC maintenance budget is now. Jeff will try to get that information from ILMC. Maria noted that the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society used to engage in oversight of the area and maintenance was much better then. Jeff noted ILMC is required to do competitive bidding required by State, so Moon may not be the company doing maintenance going forward.

6. New Business

a. Weccacoe. Duncan Spencer circulated proposal for renting the Weccacoe community room for birthday parties and noted that it is most important to repair the cracks in the cinder block caused by poor drainage off the roof. Frank Tavani asked what Duncan thinks needs to be done. Duncan has a quote from Reiter Roofing for cleaning out eaves, proper capping, patching roof and replacing the trim. He would like to put bars over windows that kids can't climb on (they currently use them to get up on the roof) and noted that the windows had to be replaced with plexiglass because kids broke windows climbing up bars. Duncan also noted we need a new locking door for the community room, so the bathroom can be accessed without people getting into the community room or elsewhere in the building. We also need to update the smoke detectors and fire extinguishers and have the building exterminated. Birthday parties cause most of the damage to the building.

Duncan then proposed a new fee structure for renting the community room that would appropriately cover the maintenance, supply and repair costs. The proposal is \$150 for the room, \$60 for someone to supervise/open/close the building, \$50 for cleaning, \$20 for supplies and extermination, and \$20 for additional trash removal for a total of \$300 per party. It was suggested that the deposit be raised to \$100, refundable if specified use requirements are met. The proposal also includes offering two time slots per Saturday, which the Board agreed should be adjusted to three hour periods - one from 10:00 am-1:00 pm and another from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Finally, QVNA would have a form in addition to the Parks & Recreation form that renter's currently complete.

***Frank Tavani moved that Duncan's proposal be adopted with time period to be 3 hours and the deposit to be raised to \$100, Amy Grant seconded the motion, and following further discussion in which the Board agrees that the rental rate for not-for-profits would be \$150 to cover costs, the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

b. Dog Waste. Amy Shelanski reported that she and Frank have monitored which containers are used and which are not, noting that one is underused and one is overused. She and Frank will meet with Ben to understand how much money there is and will consider having a summit of interested parties (dog groups, animal supply stores, veterinarians) to get buy-in for fund-raising. Ben advised there's about \$1000 left in the Dog Committee budget. LRC is currently emptying the containers at \$5 per can.

c. House Tour. Amy Grant, Amy Shelanski, and Yael Levin met with Ginger Sacha yesterday to discuss plans for QVNA's House Tour. Ginger noted that participation is low in house tours across the city except for those that appeal to a niche market or have a tie-in with a larger theme or event. She recommended that QVNA consider making the house tour as part of architecture or design event, a restaurant opening or a history lecture. Amy Shelanski and Amy Grant recommend that we don't do the tour this year, but perhaps replace it with a Stoop Garden tour (window boxes, etc.) in September, and reassess the house tour in the meantime. The Board was in general agreement with this approach.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy A. Elliott, Esq.
Recording Secretary