

## **Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—June 5, 2008**

**In Attendance:** NevilleVakharia, Walt Lowthian, Jim Markham , Rick Cole, Jeff Rush, Kathy Dilonardo, Richard Wolk, Mike Hauptman, Ed Bell, Don Ackerman, and Kathy Conway (Emeritus), Carla Puppini

**Not Present:** Andrew Speizman, Bill Landy, David O'Donnell

We had a discussion of Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission grants. The grants are to help connect neighborhoods to the waterfront. Queen Village has a number of corridors to the river. Jim Markham volunteered to write a first draft for a grant request.

**Minutes:** There was a correction requested in the number of suggestions made in the earlier Transportation Committee report—change from 17 to 13 in two places in the minutes. Carla will make the corrections. Walt moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Ed seconded it.

**Treasurer's Report:** We went over the April and May reports. We voted to accept them with corrections, which Carla will make. Richard so motioned and Rick seconded it. We discussed moving to Quick Books and decided to do that; we need to get Carla training in Quick Books. There is concern that there has not been a treasurer present as we need to put together a budget. **Jeff said he would call Andy and ask him his intentions about being an active board member.** We also felt that it would be good to put together a finance committee to invest our money and spend funds appropriately on projects.

**Open House:** Six houses were on this year's Open House; there was an increase in participants and we made approximately \$1200.00.

**Tennis News:** The National Junior Tennis League will provide instruction at our court for 6 weeks for kids this summer. A neighborhood tennis group has developed a weekly sign-up sheet for use of the court. It has been getting a lot of use since it is no longer used as a dog area. We made an Action Grant request for a capital grant to resurface the tennis court.

**Office and Recreation Building:** The office will be closed June 30-July 4. Carla has changed her schedule so that she works 4 days in the summer. Free Yoga classes are being offered on Thursdays in the building. We approved expenditures of up to \$500.00 a year for building upkeep—Carla can initiate repairs as necessary up to that amount per year. An electrician is coming in to look at moving the switches from the panel in the office to somewhere outside the office so as to make those switches easily accessible to the public when they are using the building while maintaining the security of the office, its records and equipment.

**Board and General Membership meetings:** We will have neither a board meeting nor a general membership meeting in August.

**Casinos:** Jeff said he had had discussions with Daniel Hunter of Casino Free Philadelphia regarding resiting (as opposed to opposing), they are considering the idea of us standing together on the House bill regarding changing the 10 mile limit, and admonishing the Governor to resite. We are waiting to see what the State Legislature does. Philadelphia Neighborhood Association (PNA) is trying to get a meeting

with Mayor Nutter to determine the position of the city on various casino issues but he has not been available.

**Neighborhood Conservation District:** There was a presentation of the proposal at the General Membership meeting in May. There were a number of concerns that came up—the response/solution appears in italics after the stated concern:

- a. There were a number of people who said either they or their neighbors did not receive the notice. *(Between 2000 and 3000 were mailed out to residents—we told people present that we would forward them another letter if they get in touch with the QVNA office and request one—about 25 were sent out as a result of calls or e-mails, Mike delivered another 50 or so in addition.)*
- b. A number of people were objecting to the proposal because their houses do not comply, so they were concerned that they would have to make costly changes to conform. *(All existing houses are grandfathered in. A homeowner will need to make changes only if s/he is doing work which requires a building permit.)*
- c. South Street/Headhouse Business men's Association is concerned about the application of the proposal to their stores. *(It was never intended for commercial properties so the bill to come before City Council will be checked to make sure that it is written in such a way as to clearly exclude them.)*
- d. There was confusion with a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID). *(The Neighborhood Conservation District [NCD] has nothing to do with an NID. A Neighborhood Conservation District is in lieu of a historical district; it is self-designed by the neighborhood.)*

In summary, the committee presented the draft at the May General Membership meeting, they heard concerns and as a result made amendments to the draft to finalize it. The hearing before City Council will be June 11—we will e-blast a reminder of the meeting to QVNA residents. We will e-blast Mike's article from the Crier to everyone as well and a reference to articles in earlier Criers which can be reviewed by residents on-line. The June Crier which contains an article goes on line tomorrow, June 6.

Don Ackerman proposed a motion, seconded by Mike, which says the Board continues to support the Neighborhood Conservation District legislation and resolves to go forward with the June 11 hearing in City Council. The motion was passed with one abstention.

**Transportation Committee:** Walt and Richard met as proposed in the last meeting to look at the 13 proposals for traffic concerns. They separated the traffic issues from the safety concerns. They will put the traffic concerns into a format to present to our city councilman and will talk to Captain McDowell about the safety concerns. Eleven of the items on the proposal list are aimed at reducing traffic on Christian Street and two were safety issues related to Christian Street. Walt and Jim will get a traffic expert to look at a variety of concerns along Christian Street.

The monthly General Meeting will focus on Zoning Reform.

We did not have time to consider the proposals for email voting, chairmanships, letters signed by Board members, etc. We once again decided to put them at the top of the agenda for the July meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo

Recording Secretary