

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—Thursday, April 6, 2008

In Attendance: Walt Lowthian, Don Ackerman, Rick Cole, Mike Hauptman, Bill Landy, Jeff Rush, Richard Wolk, David O'Donnell, Kathy Dilonardo, Andy Speizman, Neville Vakharia

Not Present: Jim Markham, Ed Bell,

Meeting Minutes: February minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report and 2007 Revenues and Expenses Report

We reviewed the 2007 report. Carla pointed out that the Recycling Committee had brought \$7000 into the community and should be recognized for that effort.

David moved that we transfer the \$1100.85 in the Gateway account to the Triangle Park Friends. It was seconded by Mike and approved. They will be putting 2 benches and a big planter on the north end of the park. A photograph of Triangle Park was used in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning booklet as a positive example of what can be done.

An issue has developed at the northernmost triangle (just north of Christian St.) where trucks pull up onto the bricks and park to unload and other vehicles can't see around the trucks. Richard said it had come up in the Transportation Committee, who determined it to be a parking issue which the **Parking Committee will address.**

David said that Beck Park got a grant for \$1900.00.

David moved we accept the Treasurer's Report, Richard seconded it and it was approved.

Parking Lot: Andy reported that there is a new manager in the lot under I-95 where QVNA rents spaces to residents. Jeff asked for Andy to arrange a meeting for Jeff, Walt, and Andy to meet with Parkway to discuss getting the south end of the parking lot on-line. We need parking in the community and revenue.

Queen Village Open House Tour : Carla said we need homes to feature on this year's tour on May 10. QVNA has sponsored the tour for over 30 years. She needs to find a minimum of 5 houses for this tour.

Property Tax Rebates for Seniors: Carla has helped Queen Village residents to complete the paperwork.

We need to consider if Queen Village is going to sign up for the **April 5 City-wide clean-up.**

There are a combination of **problems along 5th and Reese.** There has been drug dealing going on there. **Jeff will check with the Captain to make sure they still have a police car in that area.** There are also three properties that need to be torn down. **Carla will talk to Licenses & Inspections about this and arrange a meeting if need be.**

The Weccacoe Playground building continues to be booked for birthday parties and meetings. Larissa Cahill , who runs a licensed, bonded business is available to open and close it for a \$25.00 charge. We will charge \$75.00 for the use of the space; Carla has the discretion to adjust as necessary. We need to

consider moving the lights and heat controls out of the office into the main space so that we don't need to have someone on-site.

A non-profit group, the Community Cultural Exchange is initiating neighborhood outreach programs. They are willing to offer free yoga from May to September. The instructor has her own insurance policy that she could put Weccacoe under. **Carla will meet with them.**

Officers' Liability is up for renewal. Before automatically renewing the current policy, **Carla suggested we look at the policy to be sure it continues to provide appropriate coverage.**

Carla asked if the board wants to continue to support Penn Futures Initiative most recently the Campaign for Great Green Jobs (re House Bill 2200). **She will email more information.**

We had a discussion about how the board works; it has been on a fairly informal basis; but we need to clarify some procedures and add others procedures; for instance there was some confusion recently about the selection process for a committee chair so there was feeling that we needed to clearly state procedures that reflect the spirit and letter of the by-laws including appointment or removal of committee heads, changing responsibilities from one committee to another, and establishment of new committees. **Don Ackerman will prepare a resolution regarding these issues** for consideration at the April meeting.

We identified the need to set up a formal procedure for conducting email voting. We need to establish not only a clear process for the actual vote on line but set up deadlines for voting and a process for archiving the vote on paper. **Don will prepare a resolution** for the April meeting.

There are occasions where the president or a member of the board may feel it appropriate to write a letter (or some other form of communication) and sign it in their capacity as Board member. There was discussion of the need to have the board review such communications prior to their being sent while recognizing the need, at least on some occasions, to be able to act quickly. **Don will prepare a resolution** for the April meeting to outline a procedure for all to follow.

We also need to address whether our board meetings are open or closed to the public and how that process would work. **Don will draft a resolution** for us to consider in April.

Casinos: Jeff testified at the City Council Rules Committee hearing on Monday regarding the Foxwoods CED. The next hearing will focus on traffic issues. The Inquirer published a very strong editorial in favor of re-siting the casinos.

Committees and Issues:

Close Gateway accounts. The responsibilities have been folded into Triangle Park.

Welcoming Committee: David has been meeting with members of the Society Hill welcoming committee. Their welcome baskets include coupons to introduce new residents to area merchants.

Historic Preservation: Residents have been applying for historic certification and the committee has been able to assist them in finding historically accurate architectural features.

Town Watch: One of the group has prepared a leaflet to help with recruiting. The group asked for \$100.00 for copying the material. Don so moved, seconded by Rick and approved

Neighborhood Conservation District: It has been introduced into City Council. The wording of the bill will be sent to area residents.

Zoning: There is now a new Zoning Board of Adjustments. They are telling us that provisos are beyond their jurisdiction and that we can no longer attach them to zoning variance requests. We will now need to have legal agreements to the zoning requests and will have to take the variance holder to court to enforce it. **Jeff is asking DiCicco's office to talk to neighboring civics** to see if this is a problem for them and how they are handling it. **Rick is to meet with a zoning lawyer** to discuss how this might be handled.

Christian Street: David said there was another accident on Christian Street this month. A fairly large tree was knocked down by a car. The tree damaged the roofline of the house it hit as it fell. There have been multiple accidents in this location, trees have been destroyed before and some home owners are elderly and find it hard to do the paperwork necessary for insurance and to pay for home repairs and tree replacements. David made a motion that we reimburse the home owner who replaced his tree as a result of an earlier accident. There was no second. We discussed other possible ways to address the recurring problems –**Carla is willing to help the residents fill out insurance claim forms, put them in touch with Tree Revitalize so they can get a small tree replacement next fall and Jeff will make calls to see if he can get a larger tree replacement or bollards along that side of the block.**

Stampers Square: The developer will present his project at the next General Membership meeting to familiarize our residents with the project. There was a story on National Public Radio about Councilman DiCicco legalizing it through “spot zoning” over the objections of the host neighborhood, so there are a number of issues concerning this project.

Weccacoe Playground: The playground needs new trash cans with lids. They need to be chained in place. Rick moved, David seconded and the board approved that **Carla be authorized to spend up to \$1000.00 on new trash cans. Rick will send her** some sources that are reasonable in price.

Dog issue: We are currently awaiting response from the Dog Owners Group regarding follow up on the resolution we passed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo
Recording Secretary