

## **Queen Village Board Meeting Minutes –March 3, 2011**

**Present:** Ted Warren, Kathy Dilonardo, Walt Lowthian , Honey Pertnoy, Ed Bell, Jeff Rush, Bill Stewart, Carla Puppin (Executive Director) , Keith Grube, Amy Shelanski, Bill Landy, and Kathy Conway (emeritus)

**Not Present:** Richard Wolk, Mike Hauptman

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Jeff was appointed to the ZBA . He is the only neighborhood representative on the board. Jeff has attended a meeting and found them to be very professional—he is in a learning process as to how the board functions and hopes that his appointment will be an asset to communities all over the city.

**Minutes:** There were no corrections to the February minutes. Keith moved and Honey seconded that we approve the minutes. They were approved by the board. They can now be posted on the website.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Ed moved and Honey seconded that we accept the treasurer’s report. It was approved by the board.

### **Executive Director’s Report for February 2011**

**Sidewalk Cleaning:** We received a grant for sidewalk cleaning and announced it in the *Crier* asking for matching donations. There has been a significant increase in contributions received.

**Department of Public Property** is starting routine visits to all sites that it leases. Staff people were here on Monday for a brief visit. We might get a different lease but I pointed out that we had worked out a specific lease re rental of this property. Our lease is month to month.

**2010 Taxes:** 990 Tax form I am in contact with the accountant, who will again do QVNA’s 990. I assume that QVNA will file the same way, re the category in which it reports parking lot income. ***Jeff appointed Keith, Bill S, Bill L, and himself to form a committee that would meet with the accountant to discuss options. Carla will provide a copy of the lease.***

**Contributions:** Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia-annual membership renewal— QVNA has contributed at the \$100 annually for the last few years. *Kathy moved and Ed seconded that we make the \$100.00 contribution again this year. The board approved the motion.* Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) Annual Appeal—QVNA has not contributed in the past, but OPCC is the closest community center to Queen Village that has a clothes and food donation program for homeless individuals of South Philadelphia. The Center also wants to address other issues of homelessness and is developing its Adult Education Program. *Ed moved and Ted seconded that we donate \$100.00 to OPCC. The board approved the motion.*

**Candidates’ Night:** Primary elections are May 17. I have reserved the Settlement Music School Auditorium for April 21 for 6:30 to 9 p.m. ***Jeff, Bill S and Carla will meet to discuss the format of the event.***

**Moyamensing Point update:** Have spoken with Jennifer Mahar –she is still trying to set up a

meeting with the Department of Streets re ownership and water issues.

**Nebinger School:** Nebinger received a \$1000 planning grant from the Community Design Collaborative to develop a master plan for the playground.

**Historic Preservation Committee:** (reporting for Cynthia Temple) Cynthia has submitted a grant application for \$10,000 to the PA Historical and Museum Commission for “developing a historic preservation plan for use by QVNA as a resource base for the future development of a neighborhood plan . . . [which] will educate and engage the community about the important historic resources that exist and how best to protect them.”

ONGOING:

**Open House Tour:** Sunday, May 15 Have two houses. I ask that Board members help me in suggesting possibilities—friends, neighbors (yourselves!) who might be interested or whom I might ask if they are interested. The Friends of Mario Lanza Park will have their annual art fair in the park that day.

**Tree Vitalize Tree planting:** Coming up on Sat. April 16. Big planting of 48 trees. I am organizing with help from Tree Tenders Dan Gibbon and Barbara Seiple.

**Forgotten Blocks Committee:** Ted reported construction is booming in the area. 15 new houses are almost done and 17 are just starting. Washington Steaks is being torn down. Crime has dropped dramatically to the point where the committee representatives only meets with the police and L & I as needed rather than regularly. The committee is developing a list serve to communicate with the residents of the area and hopefully increase the level of local involvement. Four lots on 5<sup>th</sup> Street just came up before the QVNA zoning committee. They are merging lots there and will build houses that will have parking in the rear.

**Mario Lanza Park Dog Committee:** Kathy reported that the committee members are working diligently researching a number of approaches, gathering quotes from various contractors on several aspects of work there including replacing the brick wall on the Queen Street side, adding irrigation to the surface and determining the details on installing a new surface. Progress is being made and we hope to have a complete proposal to bring before the board at the next meeting.

**Sustainability Committee:** Ed reported that the committee is applying for a grant from the EPA to place stations strategically in Queen Village that would deal with dog waste. The committee would like a letter of support from the board to include with the grant request. The board voted to give such a letter. The committee is presenting a video on storm water. They are also initiating energy audits for home owners. If they get 9 residences to do them the cost is reduced to \$250.00. (They are usually in the \$350.00 range.) Ed suggested the board fund one audit and raffle that audit to Queen Village residents. The companies conducting the audits will do before and after figures on energy use. The board agreed to consider funding an audit when the details are determined.

**Friends of Weccacoe Playground Committee:** Walt reported that the community design collaborative is giving the committee three levels of design to their recommendations for the playground rehabilitation/makeover. These will include dollar amounts as well. The outside work will be in the neighborhood of \$350,000-400,000 worth of work. The committee does not have the time or interest to focus on the building. The committee is requesting the board form a committee to address issues with the building and that any fundraising include the playground and the building. The Friends committee does have an active fundraising sub-committee looking at grants, local politicians and corporate philanthropy opportunities. Board members suggested getting in contact with Councilman DiCicco's office about Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of Recreation funds, Brian Abernathy in the Mayor's office, TD Bank as a corporate sponsor and possibly Lowes and Home Depot.

June 11, 2011 will be Community Day at the playground. Settlement Music School is sending a small ensemble to perform on site. The costs are unknown at this point but the committee hopes the board will support the effort. They will come back with dollar figures at the next meeting.

April 16, 2011 is "Love Your Park Day". That will be clean-up day at Weccacoe.

Jeff reported that he attended the semiannual meeting with Deputy Mayor Gilleckson and the South Street detail about the plans for Fat Tuesday. There will be 125 police in the area. There is both a new lieutenant and new captain in our precinct.

**Zoning:** Jeff reported that the Zoning Code Commission feels they are done with the new zoning code. The civic associations want more input into the zoning process as outlined in the draft. Civics have secured 45 days to respond to a request for a variance.

**Casinos:** Jeff feels that the Foxwood's --Delaware and Reed Streets is dead as a casino location. There are other things happening along the Delaware riverfront. The Delaware River Waterfront Commission (DRWC) is going to do a presentation on new uses. The Grand Opening for the Race Street Pier is on May 12, 2011. A park has opened at the Delaware River and Washington Avenue.

Amy asked if a "No Parking" sign could be put in along Front Street to keep people from parking too close to Carpenter Street. Jeff suggested that she get a petition signed by interested neighbors and we would forward it to Councilman DiCicco's office.

At 8:50, Keith moved and Ted seconded that we adjourn the meeting. The board approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo  
Recording Secretary