

QVNA Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2012

Board Members Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Bill Landy, Cindy Elliott, Brent Chavis, Kim Maialetti, Leslie Patterson–Tyler, Honey Pertnoy, Carla Puppini (Executive Director), Cathy Conway (emeritus)

1. Approval of March Minutes

Corrections were proposed to the draft April Board meeting minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was made, seconded and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Check details, Deposit Details, a Profit and Lost Statement and a Balance Sheet were circulated.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report for April 2012 was made, seconded and approved.

3. President's Report

- a. Ted Warren. President Jeff Hornstein reported that Board member Ted Warren is resigning from the Board to address urgent family matters. This leaves a Board seat (and Vice-President position) and a Committee Chairship open. Jeff would like to recruit a parent from the Nebinger school. Executive Vice President Amy Shelanski reported that the by-laws have been revised and will be made available for Board review. Honey Pertnoy suggested that a Board retreat be held to address the by-laws and other committee issues.

- b. Tax Fairness Coalition. Jeff noted that there was a huge meeting on May 2nd with a lot of neighborhood representatives present, arguing that the Actual Value Initiative needs to be implemented correctly. Councilmen Mark Squilla and Bill Green have introduced a bill to slow down the process until value assessments have been completed in October and reviewed. Key issues are protecting vulnerable homeowners and finding alternate sources of tax revenue.

The City also needs the ability to raise additional revenue in the interim for specific needs.

Two bills have been introduced in Harrisburg requiring the City to collect back taxes before any taxes are raised. Jeff noted that these bills should be resisted.

- c. Philadelphia School District Reorganization. A program held at Mother Bethel AME Church on April 29th to discuss the reorganization of the Philadelphia public schools was a bit disappointing, since no representative of the School District attended. It didn't appear that PSD has a new plan, just a rehash of the previous plan.
- d. Revenue. The board discussed various ways in which it might diversify QVNA's income stream, in addition to expanding the parking lot. There was some discussion about advertising the availability of the lot to the general public.
- e. CDAG Update. The Central Delaware Advocacy Group master plan is to be ratified by City Council and will include a waterfront overlay.
- f. Zoning Update. Jeff will register QVNA as a Registered Community Organization with the City Planning Commission so that it qualifies to participate in city zoning matters. Kim Maialetti observed a general need to augment the QVNA zoning program.
- g. Weccacoe Playground. A meeting is scheduled for May 14th to discuss fund raising initiatives. Jeff will be meeting with Terry Buckalew on Friday regarding his interest in having a ground penetrating survey conducted on Weccacoe Playground. Jeff has asked Councilman Squilla to find out how much such a survey would cost and will offer Buckalew a consulting role as work on the Playground moves forward, so that any issues are addressed appropriately.
- h. April General Meeting. Councilman Green will attend the May general meeting to discuss tax issues. Amy will locate a sponsor for the May meeting. St. Philip

Neri has agreed that QVNA may have food at the general meetings, but not alcohol.

4. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Carla Puppini reported on the following items:

- a. Grants. Grants are currently on hold. There will be an additional outlay of \$500 for the Southwark 250 program and \$800 for Southwark/Queen Village garden, which have already been committed. Jeff asked that a current fiscal picture of commitments be prepared. The Grant Committee should have between \$15,000 and \$25,000 available for its budget. There followed a general discussion of committee budgets vs. grants and which initiatives fall into which category. It was agreed that individual committee work would fall within a budget, while external requests for funds would fall within a grant.
- b. Open House Tour. There are now 8 houses for the Open House Tour to be held May 19th from noon to 4 pm. On-line ticket sales have started.
- c. Queen Village Tree Tenders. Thirteen new trees were planted on April 28th.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Historic Preservation/Southwark 250. There was good feedback on the program, which had an estimated 100 attendees. Kim noted that she would like to have seen better publicity and will discuss with Rich Miller how to better promote events in the future. She also recommended that QVNA use these events as a chance to build membership.
- b. Schools and Youth. Leslie Patterson-Tyler reported that "It Takes Queen Village," the neighborhood school canvassing initiative, was a huge success, with more than 20 volunteers. The canvassers received over 100 petition signatures and \$130 in donations, as well as neighbors wanting to volunteer at Meredith and Nebinger schools. Another canvassing initiative in June is being considered.

- c. Dogs. Brent Chavis and Honey Pertnoy presented the proposed locations of 10 dog waste can sites throughout the neighborhood, having decided that 5 cans were not enough. Brent is talking with people living near each proposed site. The committee is working on setting up a sponsorship program where the sponsor would empty the cans once a week, using bags provided by the committee. The committee is also working on a publicity program for the new cans and is drafting a proposal for a street furniture permit for the cans. The cost of the cans is \$225 per unit and the committee will present a formal proposal at the next Board meeting. Kim asked how much community input there has been in the program. Brent noted that the issue would be raised at the June general meeting, but noted that the Old City community reacted very positively to new cans.

- d. QVNA at the Phillies. Tickets for the July 24th game will be on sale at the New Wave Café on May 16th. The tickets will be sold for \$30 and QVNA will keep \$4.00 as a donation. Any tickets not sold at New Wave will be sold through the QVNA website. It was suggested that a second event be organized if all tickets aren't sold on May 16th, before extra tickets are placed on the website.

6. Publication of Board Meeting Agenda. Jeff proposed publishing the Board meeting agenda on-line in advance of each meeting, in an effort to encourage public participation. Leslie noted that the School board had people register to speak on-line the day before the April 29th meeting. Each speaker was given two minutes. Jeff noted that City Council gives speakers three minutes. There followed a general discussion about how to publicize this new policy. A notice will be posted on the website, in The Crier, and announced at the next general meeting. The agenda will be posted on the website 48 hours in advance of each meeting. Kim recommended that a notice be placed in The Crier that the Board voted to have the meeting open to the public.

7. New Business.

- a. Bike Removal. Andrew Levitt appeared before the Board requesting support for his abandoned bike removal efforts. He has also asked the Third District police for support. Andrew provided information from the City to Jeff and Jeff noted that the City's policy is to allow local groups to "deputize" and perform abandoned bike removal. Andrew will place a prominent removal tag on each

abandoned bike for 30 days, then remove the bikes. Any removed bikes will be recycled.

By consensus, the Board approved giving Andrew the requested support.

b. Police Mini-Station Fundraiser. * The Board discussed making a donation to support the Police Mini-Station Fundraiser. Carla will check the amount of last year's donation and let the Board know via email.

It was moved, seconded and approved to give up to \$1000, pending receipt of information regarding the 2011 donation.

c. Nebinger Summer School Program. Leslie Patterson-Tyler provided the Board with information regarding a three week summer school program the Nebinger school would like to implement to assist children at risk of being held back a year. The program would consist of mornings at Mother Bethel AME with two teachers for approximately 25 children (estimated \$5,000), and afternoon enrichment at Old Pine Community Center (estimated \$10,000). The total cost for the program is estimated at \$15,000. Mother Bethel AME is committed to matching the amount granted by QVNA. Following a discussion, the Board agreed to support the morning education portion of the program.

It was moved, seconded and approved to grant \$2,500 to the Schools and Youth Committee to support the summer program.

The meeting was adjourned.

8. Post May 3rd Board Action.

*a. Police Mini-Station Fundraiser. Carla advised the Board that last year's donation to the Police Mini-Station Fundraiser was \$2500. By email vote, the Board approved matching last year's donation.

b. Bully-Free T-Shirts. Via email, Jeff asked that the Board consider appropriating no more than \$250 to offset the costs of t-shirts for children from Meredith and Nebinger who will be attending an anti-bullying workshop. By email vote, the Board approved this appropriation.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Elliott
Recording Secretary