

## QVNA Board Meeting

7 May 2015

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

Not Present: Sean Edwards, Frank Tavani

Guests: Debbie Stewart and Sharnell Croom, Friends of Nebinger

Jeff Hornstein welcomed Yael Levin as QVNA's first full-time director.

1. Minutes. The draft minutes for the April 2, 2015 Board meeting were approved as circulated on May 6, 2015 with the addition of Barry Perrin's last name.

**\* Ben Schindler moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Eleanor Ingersoll seconded the motion and the minutes were approved via unanimous voice vote.**

2. Financials. Ben reported that QVNA's United Way number was received but hasn't been added to the system yet. In reviewing the financial statement, Ben noted that a number of one-time payments were made at beginning of April at the end of Carla's term for her separation, which make the monthly expenditures larger than usual. Ben circulated draft numbers for the April statement and said he needed to add in \$2-3,000 that hasn't yet been transferred from PayPal. The final statements will be circulated via email. He noted a lot of movement in the Restricted Funds accounts, such as QVK9 and Friends of Nebinger.

**\*Amy Shelanski moved that the financial statement be approved as presented, Amy Grant seconded the motion and the financial statement was approved via unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report.

a. May General Meeting and Venue. Jeff Hornstein asked for suggestions about the topic and location for the May General Meeting. Eleanor Ingersoll suggested a "Get to Know QVNA" theme, which would give the Committees a chance to explain their work. Amy Shelanski suggested that we add "meet our new director." Amy Shelanski will see if the meeting could be held at Southwark. Café Nola and Catahoula were also suggested. Peter Ross noted that the May General Meeting date is right before the Memorial Day weekend and suggested moving the meeting to May 28th.

b. June General Meeting and Venue. The June meeting is a history lecture at the Twisted Tail about the businesses in that area in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

c. Board Retreat. Paradigm has agreed to host the Board Retreat on May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Lauren Leonard will confirm the date and time with Paradigm owner, Sara McCorriston.

d. Liquor Licensing. QVNA now has a signed a traditional agreement with BeerLOVE. The last two petitioners to the Hungry Pigeon liquor license have officially withdrawn their petitions. The license is done and we are waiting for it to come back from Liquor Control Board. Plenty has met

with Meredith principal, Cindy Farlino. Eleanor reported that there's a small but adamant group opposing the Plenty license because it feels Plenty hasn't really responded to the school's concerns. The group is considering getting the school district to support the opposition. Jeff noted that there is a 6-7 month hearing process if there is opposition, and Plenty will need QVNA's support if they want sidewalk café seating, which requires Councilman Farnese to introduce a bill in City Council. QVNA is appointing a negotiating committee to meet with Plenty's owners.

e. Crosstown Coalition Education Meeting. The coalition is working to mentor larger, more advanced schools with other less-advanced schools to help with fund-raising and branding.

f. Central Delaware Advocacy Group – Richard Wolk asked QVNA for a donation of \$500. Jeff explained that CDAG makes sure the riverfront master plan is adhered to and thinks it's a worthwhile organization. Ben Schindler explained QVNA's historical giving to CDAG and said he is comfortable giving \$500 now, but doesn't recommend making a multi-year commitment. Eleanor asked how this request is different than, for example, Old Swedes asking QVNA for support. Amy Shelanski noted that QVNA has a seat on the CDAG board and CDAG is not a private organization, but a quasi-public organization. Also, CDAG stands as the Registered Community Organization for whole waterfront and all development along it.

**\*Ben Schindler moved that QVNA donate \$500 to CDAG, Peter Ross seconded the motion and the motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.**

g. Society Hill Civic Association. SHCA is opening a small parking lot on Front Street between South and Lombard Streets by taking the existing PPA lot. 40 of the metered spaces will go to SHCA.

#### 4. Committees

a. Schools & Youth. Ben Schindler/Friends of Nebinger: Lois of the Big Sand Box org. is involved in the Nebinger project to re-do the school yard. Ben described the project. Councilman Squilla is involved in finding the funding. During the Italian Market Festival, Nebinger's Home and School Association will charge a fee to parking in the Nebinger parking lot to support school. Sharnell explained that there are 28 parking spaces which will be offered at the rate of \$20 for all day or \$5 per hour. Nebinger will have flea market on May 30<sup>th</sup> and spaces are available for \$15 each. Tables and chairs will be available for rent. The school will take donations for its own table if people have things to make available but don't want to rent a space. The H&SA hasn't decided yet whether it will pick up donations. On July, 18<sup>th</sup>, Nebinger will shut down 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Christian to Carpenter and to have a street party extravaganza fundraiser. Debbie noted that on June 11<sup>th</sup>, Nebinger will have its first talent showcase, which is entirely devised by the students. The school will sell food and take donations during the showcase. Nebinger received a \$500 environmental award and another award for a soil conservation project. Sharnell is researching possibility of providing good lunches for children. Eleanor noted that healthy school lunches are important to Meredith, also. Meredith has only one large warmer – the food comes in frozen or partly frozen and is just heated.

QVNA will be doing a summer enrichment program at the Courtyard and will need volunteers to act as chaperones for garden and other trips. All books from QVNA's drive were donated to the community

room at the Courtyard, but they don't have enough book shelves for them all. Jeff suggested investigating whether area businesses may have programs that might donate the bookshelves.

b. Weccacoe. Duncan Spencer reported that an application has been filed for the cemetery portion of the park to be on the national register of historic places. Jeff wrote letter to the Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation to see what this means for the playground renovation. A Request for Proposals was sent out on April 14, responses are due May 14, and work is supposed to be done during the summer.

QVNA collected \$10,000 for work on the community building that now can't be done. It was agreed that QVNA will contact people who donated specifically to the building fund and ask whether they approve use of their donation for needed repairs to the existing building.

The birthday party rental program has been suspended because of the upcoming playground renovations. Duncan thinks we should revisit whether we want to resume the program because of the dirt and destruction to the property that these parties cause. If the playground is renovated and the gates are locked in the evening, he suggested that we have the Seasonal Maintenance Associate from Parks & Recreation do the cleaning on a regular basis, rather than hiring it done ad hoc. Duncan will get an estimate to have serious cleaning done.

c. Communications. Amy Grant met with volunteers that collate and deliver the QVNA Magazine. There were not enough people to distribute all of the Magazines. Yael will look into better organization or more of a system for distribution. The July issue will expand to 24 pages and will have a theme of "out and about in the neighborhood."

d. Queen Village Greenway. Maria Roberts had a meeting with the landscape architect and will get new drawings next week. An application for another grant from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was submitted. The group does have \$50,000 from the first grant, which has to be used this year. It also has \$1800 in donations from neighbors. The design will be finalized soon and they should break ground in the fall.

e. Friends of Bainbridge Green. Jonathan Rubin reported that FOBG met with the traffic and parking study people last night. FOBG also met with Mike Harris and the landscape architect to discuss current plans. The plans will be shown to key stakeholders, then they will be presented to the general public. FOBG will make a presentation at the June Board meeting with some basic drawings. There should be another big fund-raising event in the fall.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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