

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—May 1, 2008

In Attendance: Don Ackerman, Jim Markham, Walt Lowthian, Neville Vakharia, Mike Hauptman, Kathy Dilonardo, Ed Bell, Bill Landy, Richard Wolk, Jeff Rush and Kathy Conway (emeritus) **Not Present:** Andy Speizman, Dave O'Donnell, Rick Cole

Meeting Minutes: Don moved we accept the minutes as written and Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: It was not presented; we agreed to table it.

Open House: Carla needs someone to pick up a platter at Chef's Market and take it to Mario or Lanza for the house sitters event after the Open House. **Don volunteered.**

Meredith School requested that they use the Weccacoe building to meet with the muralist who will be redoing the mural on the Monroe Street side up of the school. The meeting is on May 7 and **Walt agreed to open and close the building; Richard is the back-up for the opening.**

Dog Issue: Walt conducted a meeting on Tuesday, April 29 with the parents in Queen Village to discuss the possibility of a dog area behind the tennis court on the Weccacoe Playground. Don, Kathy and Neville also attended. Walt outlined the proposal for the dog area. In general, the parents were opposed to using any part of the playground for a dog area. Carla spoke to Mr. Carapucci, the Acting Commissioner of the Recreation Department on Thursday and he said the Recreation Department would support a dog area in the playground only if there was total buy-in by neighbors and an association with rules regarding use, clean-up, etc that would enforce such rules. Since such buy-in does not exist, the dog area at Weccacoe will not go forward. **Walt will tell the Dog Owners group** that the Recreation Department's standard is total buy-in, that the dog area cannot, therefore, be at Weccacoe, that we hope they will continue formation of a responsible dog owners association and will help with standards and upkeep at Mario Lanza dog area, and that the board is willing to assist them if they come up with another proposed area.

Casinos: Jeff noted that the riparian rights issues continues to rest in the hands of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and that a new bill has been introduced by State Senator Fumo and State Representatives O'Brian and Keller that could result in the casinos being moved. The Governor is against it. He says the Supreme Court has spoken—in essence the communities do not have a say. Bill inquired of Kathy whether Casino –Free Philadelphia (CFP) will support the bill, because he feels that collaboration is important. Kathy did not know CFP's position on the bill. Jeff said he spoke with Paul Boni, CFP's lawyer who said philosophically they are opposed to casinos. Kathy suggested that we ask CFP leadership such as Daniel Hunter, where the organization stands on this issue. Don pointed out that the politicians know the neighborhoods would be happy to have them moved. Further, he pointed out that the people who are responsible for locating them at these sites are to blame for this. It appears that action on the bill may be part of the budget negotiations which are to be conducted in June. It was suggested that consideration should be given to writing letters to U.S. Senators Specter and Casey and to U.S. Representative Brady to explore if anything can be done on the federal level, especially where responsibilities might overlap on any of this.

Transportation: Richard Wolk as chairman of the committee reported that there continues to be a serious situation on Christian Street. There have been a number of accidents along the street with property damage to trees, houses and sidewalks and danger to pedestrians and there needs to be measures to slow traffic down. There is also a problem of delivery trucks parking in the traffic lanes which could also contribute to problems. Jeff stated that consideration of changing the street to one way in either direction is not on the table. Bill said that the safety and well-being of people on the street is the most important thing and that doing nothing is not a solution. Richard had 4 mitigation solutions for the board to review: 1.) Changing the speed limit, 2.) Adding loading zones at various sites along the 200 and 300 blocks, also on 2nd Street , 3.) Improving the 5 way intersection at 2nd and Christian with the possible addition of count down lights for pedestrians and traffic stoppage in all directions so pedestrians can safely cross, and 4.) replacing the stop signs at Front and Christian with a light. Walt suggested that these ideas be considered by the Transportation Committee; he also reminded us that last year the board approved 13 things to be done to improve traffic and safety in the area. **Jim who served as previous chair of the transportation committee and Richard will meet to discuss** the pros and cons of the ideas Richard presented, determine which will help solve the identified problems, avoid creating new problems, which are easily implemented, which need community discussion and input and bring that winnowed and evaluated package back to the board. **In addition, Richard, Jim and Walt will go over the list of 13 actions approved by the board last year** to assess what has been done, what can be done and who is going to follow-up on what and report back to the board.

Resolutions: We all were given a draft of the processes we had agreed to discuss in order to establish procedures for such issues as email voting, open meetings, board input/approval of letters sent by board members, committee chairmanships,etc. Since we were out of time and this is the second month we have run out of time before being able to address these important procedures, **we agreed that this would be the very first order of business at the June meeting**, before other discussions that often ensues during the Treasurer's report and the Executive Director's report.

The Board suggested that the printer and copy machine be serviced. **Carla will handle that.**

The Board expressed its appreciation to Charles Schmidt for hanging the large framed map of Queen Village in the community room at Weccacoe.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo
Recording Secretary