

Queen Village Board Meeting minutes—May 7, 2009

Present: Don Ackerman, Jeff Rush, Bill Landy, Steve Schatz, Walt Lowthian, Kathy Dilonardo, Richard Wolk, Rick Cole, Ed Bell, Mike Hauptman, Marian Budzek (Emeritus)

Not Present: Andy Speizman, David O'Donnell, Neville Vakaria, Kathy Conway (Emeritus)

Minutes: There was one correction: correct the spelling of Kathy Conway's name. Otherwise, the minutes are approved as written per motion made by Richard Wolk, seconded by Rick Cole and passed by the board.

Al Dorof, Cochair of the Historic Preservation Committee, did a map identifying the historic buildings in Queen Village. It will be hung in Weccacoe.

Carla will write a thank you letter for the \$5000 received for Mario Lanza Dog park.

Weccacoe Repairs: Carla will request a work order from the Recreation Department to repair the leak in the roof. The roof needs to be repaired before the interior repairs and improvements are made.

Carla received a request from a local tutor to use the room in Weccacoe for tutoring since the library closes early. **Carla will find out more details**—if the tutor charges, she should make a nominal donation to QVNA .

Carla received a suggestion from a resident who wants to coordinate a QV residents same day community wide sidewalk sale. If residents want to decide on a date, and begin to organize it, QVNA will send email blasts announcing the plans.

Forgotten Blocks: A meeting was held on May 7. Grant Johnson, Jefferson Square Developers has a meeting set up with RDA to see about possible NTI funding. Alva Thomas manager at the Courtyard reported that they had received a bid for installation of cameras on the roof and were awaiting other bids. This past month they also evicted a tenant whose family members were dealing drugs.

TreeTenders TreeVitalize Tree Planting: Twenty-four trees were planted in Queen Village, April 25 by about 10 volunteers. Dan Gibbon and Barbara Seiple worked all day with the volunteers to complete the plantings. Carla will prepare a letter of thanks to them for their efforts.

Open House: Carla was authorized to place an ad in the Weekly Press to let everyone know about the Queen Village Open House. She has 6 houses lined up. Art in the Park will also be held that week-end in Mario Lanza Park.

Resignation by Board Member: Jeff announced that David O'Donnell resigned from the Board.

Real Estate Tax Issue: This issue continues to be fluid on the city level. It is certain that there will be changes in how property taxes will be assessed and Queen Village must continue to stay on top of the proposals, plans and changes. Jeff proposed that Bill Landy become the chair of the Tax Committee; Richard so moved and Steve seconded the motion which was passed by the board. The committee should assess the current situation and determine how to approach it. They should be prepared to make a report at the June meeting. The Mayor will be at the June General Membership meeting on June 25 to discuss this and other issues of interest to the residents.

Grants: We have some funds that we could put toward community grants. We need a systematic approach to reach out to the community. **Carla will pull out the requirements/criteria used previously, also identify a list of organized neighborhood groups and send it all to board members.** We will discuss this at the June meeting so that we can proceed.

Casinos: We had a discussion about the current proposals: SugarHouse (SH) is proposing a temporary facility and a big parking lot and Foxwoods wants to move into Strawbridges. Traffic generated by SH may have an effect on us, both on I-95 and on local streets. Foxwoods will have an effect on eastern center city and the other end of the Queen Village community. There was disagreement among board members as to whether or not they felt that Foxwoods would consider coming back to the riverfront. There was a suggestion that we consider working with city to reduce 24 hour/7 days a week hours, address alcohol consumption/availability and work with the city/casinos on traffic issues. Society Hill would like our support in objecting to the latest Foxwood's location. We need to find out more about planning and development for Foxwood's. Very few details have been revealed. **Jeff will write a letter to the Planning Commission asking for further information.**

Dog Park: Penn Dot will repair the drainage on I-95. We will work to complete the agreement between QVNA and the QVDogs, sign it and inform ILMAC that we have a working agreement so that the dog park can proceed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo
Recording Secretary

