

Queen Village Board Meeting Minutes –May 6, 2010

Present: Ted Warren, Mike Hauptman, Don Ackerman, Steve Schatz, Kathy Dilonardo, Jeff Rush, Bill Stewart, Bill Landy, Ed Bell, Walt Lowthian, Richard Wolk, Carla Puppini (Executive Director)

Not Present: Neville Vakaria, Honey Pertnoy,

Historic Preservation Committee: Cynthia Temple and Jeanne Barr made a presentation to the Board. They brought samples of the interpretive sign layout/design proposed for the trail along the Delaware River. **Jeff will introduce them to the CDAG board and the DRWC as they are looking for support and funding for the signage along the 7 1/2 mile trail. We will create a link on the QVNA website so residents can see the proposed signs.**

They will also have an exhibit in Shot Tower on Sunday May 16, 2010 showing historic photographs of Queen Village. It is free. Everyone is invited to stop by.

The next meeting of their committee will focus on writing a mission statement for the committee. They meet the 2nd Thursday of every month keeping their meetings to 1 1/2 hours. If anyone wants to join their committee, link on at the QVNA website. The committee will send copies of their minutes to Carla for the QVNA records.

The Pennsylvania Civil War Road show (A 53-foot tractor trailer filled with interactive exhibits and activities as well as programs and performances under a Civil War-era tent) will travel across the state in 2011-2015. It will be at Jefferson Square between 3rd and 4th on Washington Avenue at one point during that time-period but as of now, the date is unknown.

Minutes: There were two corrections to the minutes. **Kathy will make the corrections and send them to Carla.** The minutes were approved as corrected for posting on the website.

Treasurer's Report: The report was discussed. Richard moved we accept the report and Ted seconded it. The motion was approved.

Executive Director's Report:

Office/building. Census Bureau used the community room for training Census 2010 employees the week of April 12-16, 9 a.m to 5 p.m.; and again April 27 -30th. The trainers expressed their thanks—we have done our part for Census 2010

This was a heavy-use month for the community room for birthday parties and baby showers. Every Sat and Sun was booked.

I have received the official word from the Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) that our grant request of \$5000 for our sidewalk cleaning project, submitted in 2009, has been recommended for funding. Should take another couple of months before actual check arrives.

I have had two residents who live near Front Street call to complain in the last month about off-leash dogs on the grass strips along I-95. They state that it's particularly intense from 4:30 p.m. on. There are no city signs stating the city leash law. **Carla will call Nick Schermanake in Councilman DiCicco's office to discuss this.**

Meredith School has requested a \$100 donation for their annual play book. *Kathy motioned, Ed seconded we make the donation to Meredith; the motion was passed.*

TreeVitalize Spring planting: Saturday, April 24th: a success. Barbara Seiple and Dan Gibbon led the QV planting with 15 volunteers. Planting went well –scattered sites—3 on S. 4th, Bainbridge, 400 block Catharine, 300 block Queen, 1000 block S. Randolph.

My focus this month: Open Hour Tour: Sunday, May 16- 6 houses lined up
Posting of Dog Rule Signs in Mario Lanza Park (accompanied by article and rules in March *Crier*). The comment period is to be through April 4. To date, I have not received any comments. I have sent copies of the article to Susan Slawson, Commissioner of Recreation, and Barb McCabe, Parks Coordinator, Dept of Parks and Recreation.

Pier 53 Park (behind Sheet Metal Workers Union building) Attended the public meeting on April 26th, and the Advisory Task Force meeting this afternoon- good turnout- about 85 enthusiastic people. Workshops with the artist will follow on June 5 and Jun 26.

QVNA received a request for \$250.00 from BellaVista Town Watch for Nebinger School for art supplies. Ted moved we make the donation, Bill seconded it and it was approved by the board.

Forgotten Blocks Committee: They are helping to revise the Jefferson Square grant request. There are 6 new houses on Carpenter Street. Settlement has been made on nearby land which could mean construction of more homes. They are looking for a developer for the extract factory.

South Street Mini-Station: The station is not entirely funded by the city, so funds need to be raised to assist in its upkeep and for some equipment and special uniform needs for the bicycle unit. A fund raiser is planned for May 23 at the Society Hill Dance Academy. Sponsors are asking for our help in promoting the event. Posters will be sent out via email so that we can help get the widest distribution. Queen Village Neighbors Association will hold funds for The Friends of the Mini-station until their 501 (3)(c) status is approved. **Carla will explore how to handle this so that accountability is maintained.**

Guidelines for Committees: Each board member had received a draft of the guidelines prior to the meeting. There was discussion about several issues. **Carla will revise it per the discussion and send it to all board members so we can consider it at the next meeting.**

Mario Lanza Park Dog Run Committee: Kathy reported that feedback from neighbors and users indicates that posting the rules seems to have had a positive effect. We have had no response to our attempt to get community members/dog owners to start a group. We are encouraging clean-ups and other activities to get people on site.

City-Wide Clean-up: Ed reported that 13-15- people showed up to get supplies for the clean-up. About a dozen blocks participated.

South Street Planning: Steve reported that South Street has been the beneficiary of a vision and strategic plan completed by the students of the Penn School of Design. Dave Hammond of South Street Business Association is willing to come to one of our general meetings to make a presentation of the planning ideas to the community.

Sound Barriers: They are moving along after nearly 25 years.

Tax Assessment: Bill L and Richard will draft an eblast to encourage people to get out and vote and especially to remember the ballot questions which include such topics as changing the make-up of the zoning committee and dissolving the Board of Revision of Taxes (BRT)—issues which have an impact on the community.

Weccacoe Playground: Walt reported that the Friends of Weccacoe are putting together a task force of approximately 35 people from the community to work with the design professionals to develop a Master Plan for Weccacoe Playground. They are collecting community input through an on-line survey which allows everyone to contribute. They want to announce the survey at the QVNA General meeting, May 20, tell everyone about the community input meeting to be held May 26 at the Weccacoe Playground building and give residents at the general meeting an opportunity to give input. The May 26 meeting will be facilitated by Philadelphia Green of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. There will be a report back to the community in mid-June and the information will be given to planners and designers. In July the Task Force will meet; there will be a draft report in September and a final report in November. The community will then need to raise money via grants, fundraisers, etc. to implement the plan. The Friends of Weccacoe are funding this planning initiative through a grant for which they received \$50,000.

Casinos: The situation continues to be uncertain and in a state of flux as the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board considers Foxwood's continued lack of progress.

Transportation Committee: Richard wants to have a meeting to discuss continuing issues with the Christian Street/ Second Street intersection. He wants to invite the business owners in that area since some problems and solutions are related to deliveries to their stores.

Land Use Planning: Over the last couple of years there have been requests from community residents to designate certain areas of land for specific uses—the grass plot north of Frederick's restaurant for families and children (no dogs), the area west of I-95 at Christian St. (across from For Pete's Sake restaurant) for plantings, the area east of I-95 at Christian St. for a dog park, etc. Kathy suggested that we consider looking at the community as a whole to consider the community's needs and determine where each can best be met. At the very least we should look at the land along I-95 to consider how the needs can best be met. Right now we have no plan, so designation of a plot for specific use does not consider how all needs could/should best be met.

Composting Queen Village's leaves: Ed brought up the potential for recycling our leaves. **Ed and Carla will get together to discuss this.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo,

Recording Secretary