

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting Minutes—November 6, 2008

In Attendance: Richard Wolk, Walt Lowthian, Andrew Speizman, Bill Landy, Ed Bell, Jim Markham, Kathy Dilonardo, Jeff Rush, Don Ackerman and Kathy Conway(Emeritus).

Not Present: Rick Cole, David O'Donnell, Mike Hauptman, Neville Vakharia

Minutes: There were three corrections to the minutes. Richard Wolk moved we accept them as corrected and Walt seconded that motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: *Quicken* has been installed and Carla is beginning to use it. Plans are to have all of 2009 transactions done on *Quicken*. Jeff moved we accept the Treasurer's report and Bill seconded it. Motion approved. Don, Carla, and Andy met to frame a 2009 basic budget, identify how much we should put in savings/investment and identify current needs on which we would use the balance. We had a discussion about a number of needs: maintenance and improvements on the Weccaco Playground building, lighting the tennis court (**Carla will call the city to see if they are planning to do that**), bigger grants to parks in Queen Village, reimbursements to residents for planting trees or for putting in porch lights, street cleaning the east west streets, especially those closest to South Street, traffic studies such as Christian Street, video surveillance cameras, a second part-time employee, investment in the parking lot expansion, kitchen improvements in Weccaco. **It was decided that we will get a fleshed out annual budget for 2009 and identify funds that we have beyond operating necessities. Carla will come up back to us with dollar figures to fix up the Weccaco building.** (She will include prices from Queen Village merchants so we can support local businesses as appropriate.) If there are funds left at that point, we will consider how to prioritize the needs in order to get the most for the QVNA dollar. We also discussed establishing a Fundraising Committee that would come up with some new, outside the box ideas for raising funds since we anticipate that grant sources, especially the city, will be reduced or eliminated in the current budget crunch.

Courtyard Apartment Meetings: Jeff has attended meetings at the Courtyard Apartments where they are considering adding video surveillance cameras for security. This could be a deterrent to crime and an asset to the police.

Executive Pay Committee: Don pointed out that our Executive Director had not had a pay increase for several years. **A committee of Don, Bill, Kathy and Jeff was established to look at her salary, do some comparisons and make a recommendation to the full board regarding her salary.**

Christmas Party: Old Swedes is not available the third Thursday of December (The normal meeting night for the General Membership meeting). Carla will try to get it for the third Wednesday, December 17, 2008. Carla needs volunteers to pick up the beverages, ice and hoagie platters. **Richard and Carla will discuss the party and pull together the details.**

General Membership Meeting in November: the guest speaker will be the new principal of Meredith Elementary School and the new President of the Parent Teacher's Association.

Abandoned Houses: There are a number along 5th Street and Randolph Street. Several residents of nearby houses are beginning the process of sorting out who the owners are and either getting them boarded up, demolished or rehabbed—whatever is appropriate to reduce the blight. Bella Visa and the police, Councilman DiCicco and Queen Village all want to see an improvement. There is the possibility that there is some money in the Mayor’s Neighborhood Transformation Initiative. **Jeff will follow-up on this to determine if there are any funds, what the criteria are for receiving them, etc.**

Dog Area Report: Kathy, Don, Walt and Carla (the QV Dog Committee) had a preliminary meeting with Queen Village Dogs for a presentation on a possible dog area east of I-95 and west of Old Swedes in the grassy strip west of Water Street. We need to have a public meeting to get input. **Jeff will talk to ILMAC who owns the land to see if they consider it possible, and discuss maintenance and insurance liability.** We need to find out if the group needs to be bonded. If it looks like it feasible, the Dog committee needs to begin to draft agreements which would be between QVNA and Queen Village Dogs and another between QVNA and ILMAC.

Communications: There was concern among a number of the Board about inappropriate emails and telephone calls being sent/made to various members and staff. After much discussion, it was determined that this was a recurring problem that needed to be addressed. It was decided that **Jeff would write a letter so that it was a matter of record**, stating that such communications must cease immediately, the actions that would be taken if such communications recurred and that he would personally deliver the letter and discuss it in person.

Casinos: We continue to remain neutral as far as the Market Street East proposed casino site is concerned and support the process taking place to vet the potential new site and determine the impact of casino development. The process continues at this point with the Commercial Entertainment District (CED) legislation being read today and again tomorrow to prepare for the vote on it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo

Recording Secretary