

QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2014

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Sean Edwards, Amy Grant, Eleanor Ingersoll, Lauren Leonard, Maria Roberts, Peter Ross, Duncan Spencer, Carla Puppini (Executive Director)

Absent: Kathy Dilonardo, Jonathan Rubin

Guests: Nancy Salandra and Christy Clark – Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities

1. Minutes. The board reviewed the minutes from the October meeting and necessary revisions and additions were noted.

***Ben Schindler moved that the minutes be approved as revised, Peter Ross seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

2. Ben Schindler noted some unusual October activity: a lot came in and went out relating to the Friends of Bainbridge Green fund raising event. He also noted that QVNA had to pay 4 months' rent to the Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC) to catch up for the lots at the new rate following execution of the lease by ILMC. The new combined lot receipts were \$11,000 for one month. There was a major new expense of \$2000 for professional services from the QVNA accountant, which was reduced through negotiation from the initial \$3000 invoiced; the prior year's fees were \$1000. Ben talked with the accountant about providing more detail in the invoices about the work done. Jeff asked about the apparent \$9000 deficit year-to-date, when there was a surplus of \$12,000 YTD last month. The changes reflect a lot of restricted fund activities. Ben noted that we're working toward separating restricted fund activities from overall association activities so that the association financials will be clearer.

Maria Roberts asked how restricted funds are disbursed. Carla Puppini said that it's a reimbursement and she first receives receipts/invoices for amounts requested. This is the disbursement protocol for restricted funds for groups using QVNA's 501(c)(3) status.

***Sean Edwards moved that the financial statements be approved as presented, Amy Shelanski seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report

a. Jeff Hornstein turned the floor over to meeting guests Nancy Salandra and Kristy Cook of the Land Bank Campaign, who spoke about a current initiative called the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities. This group is made up of sixteen organizations, including religious institutions,

unions and civic organizations. The Land Bank was the Coalition's last project. It is now working on an affordable housing campaign. The Coalition wants money to go into a Housing Trust Fund that would be used for accessible housing, gardens and urban improvements. The Coalition will be going to City Council to seek legislation that would prevent people from being displaced by gentrification. The Coalition would like QVNA's support. Ben asked about the form of support for which the Coalition is asking. The Coalition is not asking for money, just QVNA's backing/political support of their initiatives. Jeff noted that some of the real estate transfer tax goes into the Land Bank trust fund, which amounts to \$10 million in a good year. Some proposed legislation would ask for a \$5 per month fee for renters and a flip fee (for those instances in which a property is bought and sold in less than X months). Peter Ross asked what would be QVNA's role or involvement. Jeff asked if there is someone from the civics world on steering committee. There is not. Jeff said QVNA would want to be advised of who is on the steering committee and be sure there's a civic voice on it. Circle of Hope is a religious group that is involved and is concerned with social justice, but not affiliated with any particular denomination. Ben said he didn't really understand all the issues and asked what opponents of the Coalition say. Cathy Conway noted that she thinks it's a really great initiative to prevent whole neighborhoods from being bulldozed. The Coalition is not asking QVNA for a decision at this time; it just wanted to present information for the Board to look at and decide what kind of involvement/voice it would want.

b. Crosstown Coalition. Jeff said he needs an extra delegate from QVNA. Meetings are Monday night at 6:00, once every two months.

c. Board elections. Kathy Dilonardo won't be running for re-election, but will stay on as Chair of the Grants Committee. She wants to meet with Finance Committee to go over the grants process. There are 5 people running for 4 open positions. QVNA will do an eblast on voting, the November meeting and absentee ballots.

d. Parking Lot Aesthetics. Maria reported that there is occasional cleaning, but no regular maintenance; trees and plants are dying and dog refuse containers are overflowing. Lots of flowers that were lost last winter weren't replaced. Moon isn't involved in horticultural aspects. When PAHORT was involved, they were out every week, pruning trees, replacing plants, etc. Neighbors have been spending their own money trying to maintain the area on their own. There is a problem with garbage, weeds, and no re-seeding of the grassy areas. Jeff would like to know specifically about trash removal. Amy Shelanski said there is still a huge problem with residents putting household trash in public receptacles. Duncan Spencer noted that people can call 311 and tell about people who are putting their household trash in public cans; the Streets Department SWEEP program can issue tickets for up to \$150 to people who dump illegally. The question was raised whether QVNA should ask LRC to do dog trash removal? Duncan thinks it's a dangerous precedent - the more that it's removed, the more people will dump. Dog receptacles that are much better than what we have now have been identified. QVK9 or Mario Lanza Dog Park group needs to address this issue. Maria suggested that QVNA take money budgeted to the Dog Committee to pay for additional cleaning. Jeff does have a quote from LRC to empty cans around the parking lot, but he will approach the Dogs Committee about using money in their budget to pay LRC for removal. He would be in favor of doubling the number of dog trash containers and paying to have them emptied.

3. Mike Harris, Executive Director of South Street Headhouse District (SSHH) has volunteered to take fiscal responsibility for FOBG into SSHH. Ben strongly supports this transfer, since SSHH is a development organization that can do things that civics like QVNA can't.

4. Executive Director's Report. Carla Puppini presented a written report. She requested \$200 from general funds for 24 new trees. The Board approved the request. Carla will ask tree recipients to make a donation, since they get the trees for free. Carla needs 2 people at Nebinger November general meeting to help with voting. A \$50,000 grant was awarded to Front Street Gateway; Maria thanked Carla for her efforts in applying for the grant. Immanuel Lutheran Church, which used to be on 5th St, now operates out of 939 S. 3rd and does a food bank two days a week. Some neighbors have complained about people sitting on their steps. The Reverend knows about the issue and will address it with food bank recipients.

5. New Business

a. Nebinger Meeting. Jeff noted that Anh Brown, Nebinger's principal will conduct a tour and say a few things; a parent from Chester Arthur, a parent from Nebinger, and a kindergarten teacher will also speak. Eleanor Ingersoll has talked with Anh, but felt the program seemed very loose at this point. Eleanor has worked with the Crosstown Coalition on its education program, promoting public schools and empowering "Friends of" groups to be active. Chester Arthur Home & School is a 501(c)(3) that's working hard to raise money and plow it back into school. Jeff asked how we can get people with pre-school aged kids to come to the meeting. Suggestions included putting flyers in area pre-schools and day care centers. Ben suggested that we put flyers in every door in the catchment (River to 9th, Washington to Catharine), with more emphasis on schools and education than QVNA. Eleanor and Amy Grant will work on the flyer. Bella Vista is publicizing Nebinger, too. There is space available for transfer from outside the catchment.

b. 2015 Proposed Budget. Ben presented a preliminary proposed budget and went over how the 2015 projections were reached. He gave a lot of detail in this draft, but will condense many categories into a more presentable form.

5. Committees

a. Weccacoe. Duncan reported that city officials were optimistic about moving forward with the renovation project because the Department of Parks and Recreation thought there was part of the community building that wasn't over the old Mother Bethel cemetery, but they discovered that's not true. The response was to suggest construction of a separate bathroom pavilion where the tennis courts are now. No one likes that idea. The main problem is trying to move the sewer line that currently goes through the old cemetery. Friends of Weccacoe sent a letter to Councilman Mark Squilla, complaining about the delays and the changes proposed by the Roz Group (moving bathroom and removing tennis court).

b. Gateway Greening Group. Maria said the group's participants are debating whether to be a "Friends of" group. They are very excited about the grant. Carla noted that the grant is

reimbursement of expenses, not money outright, and reminded the Board that it has agreed to give the Group \$5000. Ben noted that the Board needs to see the plans to allocate money to the group. Maria doesn't think anything will be done until this Spring.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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