

QVNA Board Meeting

5 November 2015

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Eleanor Ingersoll, Maria Roberts, Peter Ross, Jonathan Rubin, Duncan Spencer, Yael Levin (Executive Director)

Not Present: Sean Edwards, Amy Shelanski, Frank Tavani, Lauren Leonard, Amy Grant

Visitor: Gail Tomassini Nebinger

1. Minutes. The October minutes were approved by a majority of the Board via email vote completed on November 16, 2015.
2. Financials. Ben Schindler, Treasurer, reported that there is currently \$64,000 in restricted funds accounts, but that amount will go down by the end of the year as the grant process proceeds. The current goal is to have \$50,000 in reserve by end of the year, which is approximately 25% of the annual budget.

This month, the ad receipts for the QVNA Magazine were received ahead of the expenses incurred, yielding a net income for October of \$4000, rather than the expected \$2500. Ben doesn't think there's enough excess to give Kathy Dilonardo, Chair of the Grants Committee, more money for grants than originally budgeted, because the parking lot receipts haven't been as much during the last couple of months. Ben went over the restricted funds and noted the spend-downs for various projects, such as the Weccacoe repairs, Friends of Bainbridge Green and Friends of Queen Village Gateway.

Ben noted that the Board voted in March to give Tree Tenders \$500 per year on an on-going basis, to cover the costs of the spring and fall plantings. He suggested that this can come from the \$2000 budgeted for Board discretionary grants or from the general available funds.

***Jeff Hornstein moved that the financial reports be approved as presented, Duncan Spencer seconded the motion and the motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report.
 - a. October General Meeting. Jeff Hornstein, President, reported that the October General Meeting, discussing proposed changes to Headhouse Square, was very good. Jeff recommended that QVNA keep abreast of how residents respond to the proposal. Sean Sullivan with the Abbott Square Board has asked Jeff for a meeting with QVNA and South Street Headhouse District. Mike Harris, Executive Director of South Street Headhouse District, received a letter from an attorney allegedly representing Abbott Square residents, but Sullivan advised that the letter was not authorized by the Abbott Square Board but from the management company.

b. The Democratic National Committee reached out to Jeff about getting Queen Village involved in the Democratic National Convention to be held in Philadelphia in July 2016. Jeff will keep the Board posted on further developments.

c. Headhouse District capital improvements are being made – trees are being planted on South Street and lighting is being installed on South Street and 4th Street.

d. Crosstown Coalition. The William Penn Foundation wants to give money to schools that don't have 'Friends Of' groups. The Philadelphia Foundation is working on donor funds. The Friends of Neighborhood Education website is set to launch shortly and will feature information on how schools can start a Friends Of group.

e. Jeff Rush Memorial Fund. Bill Landy, immediate past QVNA Treasurer, said he thought any use of these funds on the community center would be appropriate, but suggested double-checking with Ms. Rush first.

4. Executive Director's Report.

a. Lauren Leonard, Amy Grant, Amy Shelanski, Duncan Spencer and Yael Levin manned a QVNA table during Pumpkinfest at Headhouse Square. Yael reports that QVNA got a good response from people.

b. A full page ad was placed in the November QVNA Magazine about QVNA programs and there will be a donation envelope stitched into the center. The issue is 32 pages, which is the largest QVNA has ever done, prompted by very high interest in advertising.

c. Yael will send an eblast about the upcoming Board election, including the schedule, registration and absentee voting procedures. A discussion about how to appropriately manage absentee ballots ensued and it was agreed that the ballots would be numbered, a separate color, and must be completed in the office.

d. Leaf bags are available in the office, but there will be no bag pick-up day. The bags can be dropped off on Saturdays beginning either this weekend or next if they are intended to go into mulch; if the bags are set on the curb, the leaves will just go into trash.

e. Olde Swede's Church isn't available for the QVNA holiday party on the third Thursday of December. Jeff noted that he would rather change the venue than the date. Yael will check into alternate locations.

5. Committees

a. Public Safety. The Beck Street Park is becoming problematic and drug use there has escalated to heroine, with needles and baggies littering the streets. Yael sent an email about the situation to Councilman Squilla. Jeff said that Councilman Squilla's public safety person, Dan Stephenson, would handle the issue. Calls have been made and the police haven't responded. Maria

Roberts thinks we need to talk with the Police Mini-Station Lieutenant, noting that there is no light and no cameras in the area. It was suggested that we talk with Friends of Beck Park and see if they have funds to improve the lighting. Yael will start attending Friends of Mini-Station meetings.

b. Schools & Youth. The Courtyard after-school program is proceeding, although the counselors Eleanor Ingersoll has tried to engage have backed out. She is pursuing other leads. Hacktery is an afterschool science program from W. Philly that came to Meredith last spring. It has been invited back for program at the Queen Village community center; Nebinger added 2 scholarships to the 5 scholarships offered by Meredith. Eleanor thinks it's really advantageous to have kids from different schools working together and hopes Hacktery will come back in January. Scholarships are \$190 each. Duncan Spencer suggested that QVNA solicit directed giving in support of these scholarships.

Eleanor presented a grant writing program with the School District for schools and representative from about 10 schools attended. Other schools in W. Philly would like Eleanor to present another program. Gail (Tomassini?), _____, suggested that Eleanor post on the QVNA website how she arranged the program, so that others can pick it up and do the program in their area.

Gail is involved in the Crosstown Coalition and Nebinger. She would like to get realtors into the school; this is something that is done in Old City and in Mt. Airy. An East Passyunk School Tour is being planned for January which will provide realtors with tours of five area schools. .

c. Friends of Bainbridge Green. Jonathan Rubin reported that this will be a capital project of South Street, like the lighting and Headhouse Square projects, although it will remain a restricted fund under QVNA. A temporary pop-up park was created at 4th and Bainbridge. Jonathan reported that one person didn't like it, but he has otherwise received positive responses. FoBG plans to get 500 surveys completed at Zakti Fitness at the January meeting. The survey is almost finished and will be on the new FoBG website.

d. Friends of Queen Village Gateway. Yael reported that the group met once each of the last two weeks and is in the process of reviewing the contract with Tend. FoQVG is considering applying for a new \$10,000 grant from PECO and is still working to understand the commitment from ILMC. Maria Roberts will talk with Councilman Squilla about how he might help out.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Jeff presented a proposed annual budget process for the Board's consideration. Details were discussed and Ben suggested that the committee budget requests be paid out on a quarterly basis.

***Eleanor Ingersoll moved that the process be adopted, Duncan Spencer seconded the motion and the motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.**

Yael will contact the Committee chairs and solicit their budgets for next year. Yael reported that there are 7 applications with the Grants Committee and Kathy Dilonardo will attend the December Board meeting to present the Committee's recommendations.

Ben noted that a Nebinger Spirit dinner will be held at Bistro La Minette on December 9th, between 5:30 and 8:30. Ten percent of all food and drink will benefit Nebinger School.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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