

Queen Village Board Meeting minutes—October 1, 2009

Present: Jeff Rush, Richard Wolk, Ted Warren, Kathy Dilonardo, Bill Landy, Ed Bell, Walt Lowthian, Don Ackerman

Not Present: Neville Vakharia Mike Hauptman, Andy Speizman, Steve Schatz

Minutes: There was one correction to the minutes. A motion was made by Richard to accept the minutes as corrected, and was seconded by Ted and passed by the board.

Treasurer's Report: Ed moved and Richard seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The board voted to approve the motion.

Executive Director's Report:

Friends of Shot Tower were awarded a GreenPlan Philadelphia grant for their proposal to revitalize the spray fountain area at Shot Tower Recreation Center!

Weccacoe Building improvements: Community room: West wall repaired and replaced, alcove re-tiled; floors/new cove molding; touch up painting, broken window in office replaced. The community room was used for 4 baby showers in Sept.

Greening Grants Applications: Seven groups applied by the Sept. 15 deadline: Bodine St. Com. Garden, Sixth Street Com. Garden, Southwark-QV Community Garden, Friends of Mario Lanza Park, Friends of Shot Tower, Friends of Triangle Park, Friends of Weccacoe Playground.

Mario Lanza Park-- Dog Area problems Kathy, Don, Walt, Gail Chapman, Lisa Mell, John Solether, and Carla met Wed. Sept 30 to discuss possible solutions. Kathy took notes.

Board Elections in November: Reminder: If you are running, you are invited to say a few words at the October 15 general meeting. Carla will be sending reminders to update bios for the November *Crier*. We need three volunteers who are not running to serve as vote counters-- count votes and tally.

Emanuel Lutheran Church (1001 S.4th St) Al Dorof's article on the church will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia newsletter.

"Dog Free Area" along Front St. PA Horticultural Society has fenced it off and started the turf renovation on that area. They posted signs describing the work on the fence. Carla will coordinate with them to put the "Dog Free Area" signs up when the fence comes down.

Christmas Party at Old Swede's? DATE? Thursday, Dec. 17 is already booked. Wed. Dec 16th is available, Fri. Dec. 18th, Mon Dec 21.

The board decided on Wednesday December 16 for the Holiday Party at Old Swede's Church. **Carla will confirm the room.**

Historic Preservation Committee: Al Dorof prepared a map of QV Philadelphia Historic Commission Registered Historic Buildings within Queen Village. **The motion was made by Don that the board authorize Carla to frame the map and poster.** It was seconded by Ted and passed by the board. The board also authorized a modern map of Queen Village be purchased and framed for the main room at Weccacoe. **Carla will take care of that.**

Upcoming Board Elections: We determined that anyone running for QVNA Board office would be encouraged to say a few words at the October General Meeting. The November *Crier* will include the biographies of those running for the board. **They are due Oct 23 to Carla.**

The dog area at Mario Lanza Park: Carla has received complaints about dogs barking at early and late hours and other problems at the dog area. Walt Lowthian, Don Ackerman, Kathy Dilonardo QVNA Board members, Carla Puppini, Executive Director, QVNA, Gail Chapman and Lisa Mell from the Friends of Mario Lanza Park and John Solethar , QVNA resident and volunteer in helping to maintain the dog area met September 30, 2009 to discuss the issues related to the dog area. Kathy reported that the group reached the decision that they would like QVNA to establish a formal committee to address the issues. They also discussed a range of problems and solutions including the possibility of holding dog training clinics for owners and their dogs, and talking with the police to find out what they can do to help. Kathy moved that QVNA create a committee that focuses on Mario Lanza Park (MLP) dog area and works with the Department of Recreation and the Friends of Mario Lanza Park to formulate rules for the MLP dog area and solutions to a range of problems including helping to establish a dog group for the park. Ted seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Jeff asked if Kathy would chair the group; the board agreed. Carla reported that she had urged residents who have problems to bring them to the Town Hall meeting which the Third District police commander is conducting later this month at Weccacoe. Jeff reported that he had emailed Captain McDowell's office on September 4, 2009 to alert them to the problems and was told they will pay closer attention to the site.

Possible dog area Water Street location: Carla will find out from Mike O'Brien's office what the cycle is for Department of Community and Economic Development funds so we can ask for funds to resurface the proposed Water Street dog area. It was also reported that QV Dogs has disbanded.

Forgotten Blocks Committee: Jeff praised the group's accomplishments, saying that Licenses and Inspections (L & I) is thinking about making the process the committee used to clean up the area a model. Ted reported that there have been 14 new constructions and/or major rehabs between 5th and 6th streets and Christian Street and Washington Avenue in the past two years.

Other development: Jeff reported that 525 Fitzwater had been torn down. It was an historic property. Jeff wants to know what we can learn from that and what the remedies are to prevent such destruction of our historic buildings in the future. **Ted will get information from L & I about it.**

Second and Monroe Street construction site: There has been no building going on since the first week in December 2008—almost a year ago, yet the construction fence remains on the entire sidewalk on the west side of Second Street and the owner parks his car behind the fence on the sidewalk while residents are forced to walk in Second Street. Carla has called L & I about this issue several weeks ago and nothing has happened. **Kathy was asked to send Jeff the addresses of the houses on the site and he will contact the Councilman's office to see what help they can be on this issue.**

Sound barriers will be coming next spring.

Grants Committee: The committee will meet in October or November to determine their recommendations regarding the seven grant requests received from greening groups in Queen Village. The board can then consider the recommendations at the December meeting and they can be announced in the January *Crier*.

Transportation committee: is waiting for word from the Streets Department on initiating the experiment with the stop signs at Second and Christian Streets. **When we are given a starting date, Richard will do an article for the *Crier* describing the experiment, its duration and objectives.**

Welcoming Committee: The committee delivered its first basket to a new neighbor on Hancock Street. The basket contained merchandise and special gift certificates from many local merchants. Charles Schmitt, Barbara Seiple, David O'Donnell and Cathy Wolf delivered it. The recipient was very pleased.

Friends of Weccacoe (FoW): The group has restarted its monthly steering committee meetings. Lt. Shea is increasing security at the playground. There is some consideration being given to locking the gates in the late evening but that raises many issues that would need to be solved before that would happen. **Jeff suggested Town Watch be asked to circle around the area each night they are out. Kathy will pass the message on to the Town Watch coordinator. The grant request to the Community Design Collaborative (CDC) is due October 15.** FoW got letters of support for their grant request to conduct Master Planning from Settlement Music School, Meredith Elementary School and Nebinger Elementary School.

Casinos: Nothing is happening with Foxwoods right now. Today was the first of the deadlines imposed on Foxwoods by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB). The group discussed our need to know whether Foxwoods is meeting the deadlines and what they are reporting. **A motion was made to write a letter to Senator Farnese and Representative O'Brien to ask for access to Foxwoods' report to the PGCB. Jeff will write the letter.** SugarHouse plans a groundbreaking on October 8, 2009.

Taxes: Bill reports that we are in for a multi-year battle on this issue. There will be an article in the upcoming *Crier* describing the issues and problems.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo
Recording Secretary