

## QVNA Board Meeting

October 5, 2015

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

Not Present: Sean Edwards, Amy Shelanski, Frank Tavani

1. Minutes. A vote on the draft minutes for the September 3, 2015 Board meeting was postponed until everyone has a chance to review them. A discussion was had regarding those items that were voted on during the September meeting concerning grants issues. It was agreed that a) Board members involved in a project for which QVNA funding is sought would recuse themselves from any Board funding votes and b) there would be no ad hoc Board grants unless the Board has received at least one meeting's notice before voting. These changes in grants requests will be published on the website and in the *QVNA Magazine*. Peter Ross asked if the June minutes were approved. Jeff said that both June and September minutes would be circulated for an email vote.

2. Financials. Ben Schindler reported that he and Yael Levin have been working to get all financial accounting/reporting in order. The focus now is on fine-tuning the reporting of the restricted funds. When Ben and Yael are satisfied with the reporting of the restricted, they will be moved to the QVNA TD account. Ben noted that September was standard month and noted that there is a gap between the cost of publishing the *QVNA Magazine* and ad receipts, but he expects to break even by the end of the year. He also pointed out that parking lot receipts drop off a bit during the winter, when the lot isn't used as fully. There were no disbursements over the last month, but that will change soon.

**\*Jeff Hornstein moved that the financial reports be accepted as presented, Amy Grant seconded the motion and all approved via unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report.

a. Nebinger General Meeting. The meeting was very good and featured a great panel discussion led by a number of outstanding presenters. Jeff would like to find a way to get a better turnout at the General Meetings. Ben noted that Facebook event pages are helpful in this regard.

b. Plenty. There has been no word on when there will be a hearing or whether QVNA will have standing at the hearing. Some people are urging Meredith to hire legal representation and go before Liquor Control Board. Eleanor Ingersoll will talk with Meredith about its plans.

c. Hungry Pigeon. This business is in the final stages of construction though it won't open until December or January. .

d. November 3<sup>rd</sup> is an important election, partly because it involves selecting Supreme Court Justices; the Pennsylvania Supreme Court controls redistricting. The Crosstown Coalition is having

forum with all candidates on October 17th. Eleanor asked whether there's anyone from the Coalition available to go around to Home & School Associations and explain the importance of this election.

e. Center City Overlay passed. Councilman Mark Squilla introducing Bill 150502 to address pilot houses on top of buildings, which were not addressed in previous zoning rules. Darrell Clark has introduced a bill that would impose city ethical requirements on organizations like QVNA.

#### 4. Executive Director's Report.

a. Yael is streamlining services: the fax line has been deactivated as it has not been used for over a year; the phone lines have been consolidated; a new way of processing credit cards for donations and advertising has been implemented; she will be using different log-ins for each restricted fund group to keep track of users and allocated funds received. There will be a fund-raising envelope included in the November issue of the *QVNA Magazine*. QVNA will have a table at the South Street Headhouse PumpkinFest. Yael is working with the Zoning Committee/PCPC to go through the neighborhood and look at what needs to be done or corrected, especially identifying green spaces.

Yael is also working on correcting/streamlining the *QVNA Magazine* distribution process. She has asked the printing company to let her know what it would cost to direct mail the magazine. The Communications Committee has polled the block volunteers in order to get accurate information about the number of residences on each block. Thus far, approximately 25% of the volunteers have responded. Preliminary data indicates that most blocks in our neighborhood have been receiving too many copies for years and that the volunteers have been discarding the extra copies instead of distributing to local businesses. Duncan Spencer asked whether QVNA should focus any direct mail to problem areas that haven't been getting the magazine

Yael also reported that she has attended Next Great City meetings with Eleanor.

Upcoming event dates:

10/10 Bella Vista tree give-away at Palumbo and recycling being taken.

10/11 Grant request deadline

10/15 General meeting – Mike Harris will speak and QVNA Board candidates will be introduced. Jeff asked that the Election Committee decide how to conduct this meeting.

10/31 – PumpkinFest at HeadHouse. Lauren Leonard, Duncan and Amy Grant are signed up for the QVNA table.

11/19 is the date of the November General Meeting, which will feature the QVNA Board election. It may be held at Paradigm.

#### 5. Committees

a. Schools & Youth. Eleanor reported that there will be a get-together to thank volunteers and organizers of Summer Camp at Courtyard. She hopes to be able to announce an after-school program. She learned that emotional issues can seriously derail kids for extended periods of time and is looking for counselors. She plans to use the remaining Schools & Youth budget to hire a counselor for a couple of months and see how it works. Currently, there are 15 kids in the after-school program held in the Community Room at Courtyard. Duncan suggested that Eleanor solicit directed giving to support the Committee, which could be promoted at PumpkinFest.

Eleanor also noted that there are plans to offer 5 scholarships for a pilot science program for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders that will be held at QVNA Community Center. Half of the participants would be from Nebinger and half from Meredith. Peter asked how the after-school request gets categorized in the grant/discretionary/committee work scheme. He also noted that the Board should distinguish between supporting QVNA groups (e.g., QVK9, Friends of Moyamensing Park, etc.) and QVNA committees (e.g., QV Dogs, Schools & Youth, etc.). The Finance Committee agreed that \$10,000 could be given away, \$8,000 to Grants Committee for disbursements and \$2,000 for Board discretion.

Some Board members felt that, if there is a committee, the committee shouldn't have to go through the same grants request as a completely separate group outside QVNA. Ben noted that committees were established because the Board decided there was an issue of sufficient importance to warrant a committee.

\*Maria Roberts moved that QVNA give the Schools & Youth Committee \$600 for the proposed after-school program through end of the year, Amy Grant seconded the motion and all approved via unanimous voice vote.

b. Friends of Greenway. The group held a meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a proposal for the next phase of development from Tend (a woman-owned landscape design business with a focus on sustainability). The group has a grant, thanks to Marge Shernecke. Maria believes the group will be able to raise another \$50,000, but would like to take some of \$60,000 in grants it already has to pay Tend for next phase. Money is in the account, but QVNA has to process it from a logistics point of view. Yael noted that we have to get 3 bids to comply with government requirements. Jeff noted that the Board doesn't need to approve the disbursement, as the money is already there; Friends Of Greenway gives us direction and we execute.

c. Weccacoe: Duncan reported that, using funds from QVCC and Friends Of Weccacoe, a great deal of work has been done on the community building. QVNA is now in a position to do birthday parties and other events again.

d. Nominations. QVNA has a full slate to put forward.

Yael will do eblast of the grants request deadline and the upcoming Board election.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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