

QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2014

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Amy Grant, Lauren Leonard, Maria Roberts, Peter Ross, Jonathan Rubin, Duncan Spencer, Carla Puppin (Executive Director)

Absent: Kathy Dilonardo, Sean Edwards, Eleanor Ingersoll

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

***Jonathan Rubin 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 reported that rentals in the second parking lot are doing well. 165 spaces are currently rented. There will be more receipts coming in, as there is a 1 ½ to 2 month lag between when QVNA pays rent to ILMC and when QVNA receives a check from Parkway. Every month QVNA should be receiving larger and larger checks from Parkway. Rent to ILMC is not yet included in the financial statement; when ILMC signs the lease, QVNA will owe 4 months' rent (from the date of the lot opening in July) of \$14,000. Parking lot receipts versus outflow was \$7000 for August; receipts over outflow should eventually be about \$10,000 per month and QVNA should catch up to a full flow by the end of the year. Ben noted that some unrestricted funds were disbursed last month. The reserve is now \$37,000.

***Duncan Spencer moved that the financial statements be approved as presented, Jonathan Rubin seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report

a. Roadmap for Growth/Chamber of Commerce. A Roadmap for Growth program was held last night by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce at Old Swedes Church. QVNA paid one-half of the Old Swedes rental (\$150) in co-sponsoring the program. Jeff reported that there was a small turnout of about 25, but there was a good conversation about neighborhood growth and economic reforms. The Chamber's goal is to build toward the next mayoral election by encouraging a grassroots effort to provide input to city. Jeff asked whether anyone saw a downside in QVNA's continued support of the Chamber's program. Ben asked whether the Chamber has any political alignment that the Board should be aware of. Jeff said no, that Councilman Mark Squilla asked for QVNA's support and the Chamber only wants to use our name as participants/sponsors. Jeff said he would make sure that the Chamber uses the QVNA logo only for this specific project.

b. Police Service Area Reorganization/South Street Mini-station. Queen Village is part of the 3rd Police District, which is divided into 3 areas. A new captain has changed the organization of the area PSA. The South Street Mini-Station is now the Friends of South Street, not the 3rd Police District

Advisory Council (“PDAC”), because there’s already a PDAC for the 3rd District. The Friends of South Street Mini-Station are holding a fund-raiser block party on October 19th on 7th Street, called the Blue Party. Jeff reported that crime statistics for QVNA are good this year – robberies are half of what they were last year, although there have been more bicycle thefts. Jeff would like to see QVNA support the fund-raiser by making an official donation, with Board members also buying their own tickets. Ben thinks individual Board members should buy 5 tickets at \$30 each, then have QVNA match that amount in donations. Jeff noted that Friends of South Street Mini-Station generally have about \$15,000 on hand to help with things like broken air conditioners, ceiling leaks, etc. Jeff asked the Board to approve a total donation of \$500.

***Jeff Hornstein moved that QVNA donate \$500 to the South St. Mini-Station, Amy Shelanski seconded the motion, and there was no opposition from the Board.**

c. General Meeting. Jeff would like to get gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf to the October meeting, but he’s had no success so far. Jeff also invited Governor Corbett, but hasn’t heard from him either. He suggested that we could try to get the Lt. Governor, but wondered what the interest level might be. Jeff noted that the September meeting went really well. The Crosstown Coalition may be getting William Hite or Bill Green from the School Reform Commission to do a program. Duncan Spencer suggested that we try to get Tom Wolf’s person on education. Jeff asked Carla to talk with Nebinger School about using the auditorium for October meeting. Ben suggested that QVNA make it a “consider Nebinger” event. We will need to talk with Nebinger’s principal, Ahn Brown, and the head of Nebinger’s Home & School group to coordinate. Carla Puppini suggested that we get the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (“CDAG”) to come and make a presentation about what’s happening on the Delaware waterfront.

Jeff said he would make one last call to Tom Wolf’s people. If he doesn’t get a response, he’ll go to the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation first and plan on holding the November meeting at Nebinger.

d. Crosstown Coalition. The Coalition is weighing in against the billboard situation. Many billboard owners only pay \$50 per year for old billboards under a grandfather clause in the current regulations. The Coalition is also looking at the State transportation bill and increasing registration by \$5 to pay for street maintenance and related expenses. Currently, the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund can only be used for roads. The Coalition is also considering a city-wide public relations campaign about why kids should go to their neighborhood public schools.

4. Executive Director’s Report. Carla reported that QVNA will have an information table at the Food Trust Farmers Market table on October 12th and October 26th. There are two two-hour time slots on each day and she needs volunteers. The table will be stocked with the fund-raising post cards, banner, QVNA Magazine, sign-up sheets, and QVNA Magazine advertising brochures. There will be a meet and greet with other are civics on November 3rd. The annual holiday party will be held on December 18th and Old Swedes is available. She will begin looking for music. It was suggested that we have Rich Miller as a DJ and include a wine tasting.

5. Committees

a. Weccacoe. Duncan Spencer reported that there was a meeting amongst city officials last week, which Councilman Squilla attended. The officials are optimistic about going ahead with playground renovations and will leave the separate area over burial ground for later decision. They don't seem to be inclined to tear down the current building, but they want to move water lines away from cemetery. Duncan thinks Deputy Mayor Gillison will release a statement about the project soon.

b. Finance. Ben Schindler reported:

Fund Raising: QVNA has reached 35-40% of its annual fund-raising goal and the Committee wants to continue to push for donations through end of this year. Ben will talk with Amy Grant about how best to get the idea of contributing in front of people. Amy noted that QVNA only did a push for donations in April and May, then nothing over summer. Despite only working on this for two months, QVNA has raised more than twice than it did last year (\$9,645 YTD vs \$4,270 in 2013). We want to provide addressed envelopes to make contributing easier. Jeff thinks QVNA is in pretty good financial shape and suggests the Board think about spending a little for sustainable fund-raising materials.

Restricted funds: The Committee would like to see guidelines established for what QVNA is willing to do in the area of assisting local organizations, especially if an organization is raising large amounts of money. He asked that the Board consider how much it is comfortable holding for other entities. The Committee felt QVNA would be okay holding \$25,000 - \$30,000, but will ask the QVNA CPA for input.

Grant Allocations: The Committee discussed the issue of the distinction between grants and donations. We tend to look at donations in a one-off way, rather than part of an overall budget and will discuss in more detail at the next Committee meeting. Carla will distribute the grants protocol for reference. It was the perception that there is a tiered system, where up to \$500 one-time donations are covered at Board meetings, but requests for amounts over that had to go to the Grants committee. Jeff noted that we should categorize items as coming from a grant fund, a donation fund and a recurring expenses fund (which would be made up of core endeavors we support on annual basis, like schools and the police mini-station). Donations would consist of amounts given to fund-raising efforts by groups like Friends of Bainbridge Green.

Jeff noted that he has gotten some questions about financial transparency and would like the Committee to think about how to best present information to the public. Amy Grant mentioned the sample budget that Ben prepared. Ben said he will propose a 2015 budget at the next Board Meeting.

c. Communications. Amy Grant announced that the first issue of magazine is out and the Committee will meet soon to plan the November issue. Jeff asked how advertising is going, whether it is revenue neutral compared to *The Crier*? Selling ads is unrelated business, so we have to be cautious about how much we receive versus our costs. Amy said the magazine is slated to be revenue neutral for 2014-15, but that the Outreach and Communications Committee may revise rates for 2015-16 so that receipts from ad sales will be greater than the expenses for the Magazine. The Committee will get information from the accountant regarding any applicable UBIT tax and how this might impact QVNA's receipts overall. Cindy Elliott noted that we will need to modify the by-laws references to *The Crier*. The

Board approved spending \$80 for a QVNA sign for the community center door, which Duncan Spencer will handle.

d. Quality of Life. Lauren Leonard reported that the Clean and Green and 311 Committees are merging to form the Quality of Life Committee. The Committee will tap the current block people who distribute the QVNA Magazine and other people who do things on an ad hoc basis. Jeff said he would like to see relationships built with Licenses & Inspections and/or the Streets Department, and wants to devote a general meeting to these issues.

e. Transportation. Jeff reported that Frank Tavani is building a list of people who are short dumping in the neighborhood. Frank has also put together excellent bus and bike share proposals. Lauren supports the bike proposal, but notes the 4th Street and 5th Street and Passyunk locations need to be integrated into the Bainbridge Green project.

6. New Business

Queen Village Scavenger Hunt. Amy Shelanski had thought a scavenger hunt would be good for November, but it's too late to plan and advertise it now, so thinks it should be considered for the Spring. She will be in touch with Piers Marchant, who has organized scavenger hunts for Meredith. Jeff supports the idea as a good community building effort. Amy Shelanski also mentioned painting event and thinks the Board should create a 5-year plan for these kinds of community events, as well as all QVNA activities. Jeff asked whether we should do a survey to find out what community wants first, then create plan. The last survey of this type was done in 2005.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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