

QVNA Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2013

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Cindy Elliott, Kathy Dilonardo, Lauren Leonard, Kim Maialetti, Honey Pertnoy, Amy Singh, Carla Puppini (executive director), Ruth Barr (emeritus), Cathy Conway (emeritus).

Not present: Brent Chavis, Leslie Patterson-Tyler, Amy Shelanski, Bill Landy

1. December Board Meeting Minutes. Revisions and additions discussed.

***Kathy Dilonardo moved that the minutes, as amended, be accepted, Amy Singh seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

2. President's Report

- a. Tax Issues. Jeff Hornstein noted that his new position as Director of Financial and Policy Analysis at the City of Philadelphia Controller's Office will limit his role on the Board on tax issues. He has asked Richard Wolk, Chair of the Tax Reform Committee, to take on the role of writing articles, etc. for QVNA and noted that Matt Rubin of Northern Liberties will take on a city-wide management/leadership role. Kim Maialetti asked whether we could engage Richard to let the Board know about his committee's work, especially since the Board made a commitment at the community meeting to keep everyone informed.

Jeff also noted that the Mayor's March budget address will be the next important statement on the AVI tax issue. Assessments will be coming out at the end of February. 5,000 citizens got reassessed last year because their abatements expired. These citizens have already gone through the appeals process, which must be undertaken within 6 months following the assessment. Kim noted that we need to be able to offer information to neighbors when they get their new assessment. Rich McKeithen, Chief Assessment Officer, Office of Property Assessment, told Jeff he would arrange a special appeals day for Queen Village residents. Jeff thought we should do an article for the February issue of *The Crier* describing the appeal process, etc. for the changes effective in 2014. This is different than the process for the 2013 bills that were issued in December. Kathy Dilonardo suggested that we post the appeals process and related information on the website and send in an email blast. Kim suggested that we have handouts of the website posting and email available at the General Meetings, also. Jeff noted that Councilman Jim Kenney, a potential mayoral candidate, will attend the QVNA General Meeting in January and can address some of our questions then.

- b. South Parking Lot. The proposal for opening the South Parking Lot, as approved by the Board, has been presented to the Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC). Jeff met

with Betty Borodiak and Maria Roberts about forming a group to take on landscaping for the South Lot. This group will talk with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

c. Zoning. Jeff noted that there have been recent problems on the 100 block of Catharine and S. 6th Street regarding unauthorized work. There is a loophole in the new zoning code about pilot houses, and former Board member Mike Hauptman has agreed to write an article about this loophole for *The Crier*. Most developers are good about addressing QVNA's concerns. Jeff has also talked with the management at the new 7-Eleven at 2nd and Christian Streets. While the property owner has not been neighborhood friendly, this 7-Eleven is a corporate franchise and the management seems willing to work with QVNA.

There has been another recent battle over the property at 5th and Bainbridge Streets between the most recent owner and [another group] over the transfer of the liquor license. Tapestry will reopen at that location.

3. New Business

a. South Parking Lot Resolution. Jeff expects that ILMC will approve QVNA's proposal within the next couple of weeks. Then he proposes we talk with Parkway Corporation about managing both lots. A resolution to accomplish this was presented and reads as follows: "QVNA Board authorizes a committee composed of the president, the executive direction, and another member of the Board to enter into negotiations with ILMC, Parkway Corporation, Old Swedes Church, and other relevant parties regarding terms and conditions for extending QVNA's community parking operation to the South Lot. The committee will present all proposals to the Board for ratification, no later than that [sic] March 2013 Board Meeting."

***Honey Pertnoy moved that we approve the resolution, Kim Maialetti seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

Discussion: Rev. Joy Segal, Rector of Old Swedes Church, asked whether someone would be calling all interested parties together and scheduling the meetings. Jeff noted that Carla Puppini will organize these meetings.

b. Historic Preservation Budget Request. Amy Singh said the committee would be sponsoring an event at Settlement Music School and asks that QVNA allocate \$200 for food and venue rental. The Historic Preservation Committee received a \$2500 grant from the Preservation Alliance to do a study of buildings of historical significance in Queen Village that are not protected. The Historic Preservation Committee hired Terry Necciai, a local architect and preservation specialist, to do the study and write up a report. The report should help people who are restoring income-producing properties with obtaining federal and local tax credits.

Discussion: Kim asked whether the report could be used to force people whose homes are listed to perform restoration. Amy responded that, no, the committee won't be seeking to have houses contained in the report placed on the historic registry, but the committee will do a

presentation on how someone can go about being listed on the registry. Honey asked how this comports with Bill Landy's proposal that the Board restrict spending until the South Lot has been opened. Jeff noted that Bill's proposal applies only to major grants, not committee budgets.

***Jeff Hornstein moved that the Board approve the Historic Preservation Committee's request for \$200, Honey Pertnoy second the motion and the Board approved by unanimous voice vote.**

c. Public Safety Budget Request. Kim reported that the Public Safety Committee will meet on the first Monday of every month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm at Weccacoe. The Committee plans to launch a "Leave Your Lights On" campaign and will distribute leaflets. At the March General Meeting, the Committee would like to buy and give out 20 photovoltaic sensors that automatically turn lights on when it's dark and off when it's light. Mitch Cohen, of Cohen Hardware, will give a discount to residents on these sensors. The Committee will also invite the new area police Lieutenant Michael Goodson to speak at the March General Meeting. The Committee requests \$200 to buy sensors and produce leaflets.

Discussion: Kathy suggested that the Committee hold a drawing for distribution of the sensors at the March Meeting.

***Cindy Elliott moved that the Public Safety Committee request for \$200 be approved, Kathy Dilonardo seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

d. Dogs. Honey noted that the Dogs Committee still hasn't heard from the City with respect to its proposal to install dog refuse receptacles throughout the neighborhood, except to receive an apology that there's been no response. She will discuss this issue separately with Jeff.

e. Trees. Lauren Leonard, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, noted that a tree cycling was conducted in which 400+ trees were collected and chipped. The mulch was distributed to Nebinger Elementary and the South Philadelphia Older Adults Center.

4. Financial Report. The financial report was reviewed. Carla will print out all grants given over the last year and present them at the Board Retreat on January 26th.

***Amy Singh moved that the Financial Report be approved, Honey Pertnoy seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

5. Executive Director's Report.

The Queen Village Community Center fundraising has yielded \$5710 in donations to date.

The QVNA 311 representative Cathy Cruise would like to speak at a General Meeting. Carla thinks this would be good for the February or March meeting. Kim is fine with Cathy speaking at the March meeting for 15-20 minutes.

Stephanie Dodd, a Reiki Master and yoga instructor with Hope Through Love, proposed offering a Saturday or Sunday morning family yoga program at Weccacoe. A portion of the proceeds would be given to QVNA as a donation. Kim asked whether this is a business for which Stephanie would be charging fees. Honey thought permitting this type of use would open a can of worms. Jeff asked whether this was a service that residents couldn't get somewhere else, such as using Weccacoe for birthday parties. Kim asked how we would respond if other yoga studios wanted to offer similar programs at Weccacoe. Carla noted that someone did once offer free classes at Weccacoe. Kathy thought promoting family exercise is a good thing. Honey asked if QVNA has ever rented Weccacoe to someone for business purposes and Carla responded that we once had a tutor that made donations to QVNA for use of the space. Amy asked about Thai Chi classes. Joy Segal noted that Old Swedes uses a contract for use of its space with a strong hold harmless clause. Kim believes renting to money-making ventures is a sticky issue. There was general consensus among the Board that the proposal be table for now, with the Board to consider a general policy with regard to such use of Weccacoe.

6. Annual Membership Appeal. Jeff would like to push on with an annual membership appeal. Kim asked whether we can give people something for their donation, such as a car magnet, flag, shopping bag, T-shirt. Jeff noted that we need a logo for that, but Kim noted that the Committee handling the logo issue no longer exists. Jeff said that he knows there are a number of graphic designers in the neighborhood.

***Jeff moved that QVNA offer a \$500 prize for the best logo and that the call for designs be published in The Crier. The general consensus of the Board was that the issue would be taken up at the Board Retreat. Kim noted that we need a Request for Proposals.**

Honey asked that Lauren's Sustainability Committee consider holding a household paper shredding event and/or other events with a spring cleaning theme. Jeff suggested we hold a disposal event for items such as paint.

The Board discussed noise complaints it received regarding a clothing store in the 300 block of South Street. The Board noted that neighbors should Lt. Goodman as well as the Head House South Street civic association.

The regular meeting adjourned and the Board remained for an Executive Session to discuss staff compensation issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy A. Elliott
Recording Secretary