

## **Queen Village Board Meeting Minutes –September 12, 2011**

**Present:** Ted Warren, Kathy Dilonardo, Walt Lowthian , Honey Pertnoy, Ed Bell, Jeff Rush, Bill Stewart, Carla Puppin (Executive Director) , Keith Grube, Amy Shelanski, Jeff Hornstein

**Not Present:**Bill Landy

**Weccacoe Playground:** The Friends of the Weccacoe Playground presented completed proposal for the renovation of Weccacoe Playground. The plan maintains the existing “bones” of the area, increases tree coverage, incorporates stormwater management features, a spray feature and rain garden, historic signs and timeline and an obstacle course. The plan provides cost breakdowns; the work can be done in modules as the money is raised. Jeff thanked Walt and the Friends for all their hard work. The Board voted to support the Friends in any way we can.

**Minutes:** There were no corrections to the minutes. Keith moved and Honey seconded that we approve the minutes. They were approved by the board. They can now be posted on the website.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Richard moved and Mike seconded that we accept the treasurer’s report. It was approved by the board.

### **Executive Director’s Report for Summer, 2011 September 12, 2011**

**Corrections** to the timeline–Board positions as reported in the June Executive Director’s Report: #5 is no longer vacant—return of Jeff HornsteinShould read: “Board positions #5, #6, #7, and #8, held respectively by Jeff Hornstein, Keith Grube, Amy Shelanski, and Mike Hauptman are NOT up for election this year”

**Office/building** The early August heavy downpour did some damage to the ceiling—some ceiling tiles came down. Walt checked roof and gutters afterwards—they were clogged—he cleared and we had no visible problems with Hurricane Irene. Necessityof having regular roof checks and maintenance.**The Board authorized Carla to find someone who would clean the gutters at least twice a year to help prevent such problems in the future.** The Board thanked Walt Lowthian for checking and cleaning all the buildings gutters as a result of the leak.

**New QVNA web site.**Allows Carla to directly enter info on events, etc.Working with both Neville Vakharia and Amy Singh on this.

New printer for the office; has capability to be hooked up to Carla’s computer.

**Southwark–QV Com Garden has requested permission to use QVNA’s 501 c (3)status** in two instances:

1) In order to allow them to apply for small grants of less than \$5000 to foundations etc. (which often require a 501 c(3) The group has its own bank account and garden officers and would handle those funds themselves. The group is happy to comply with whatever reporting requirements requested by QVNA.

2) There are a few local private individuals who have expressed interest in the garden and whom the garden would like to be able to approach to request a sizable donation. In such cases the garden would have those donations come directly through QVNA, and earmarked for the garden. This would offer the individuals the possibility of a tax deduction.

The board had a lengthy discussion regarding such requests in general and this one specifically. We want to facilitate fundraising for community organizations within Queen Village. At the same time we need to be certain that funds obtained under our 501 c (3) standing are used in accordance with rules governing non-profits and further does not cumulatively result in additional work for our staff. **The Board asked Ted, Keith and Jeff H. to give Carla input into what would be developed as guidelines/procedures for groups to follow when we give them permission to come under the umbrella of our 501 c (3) standing.** The draft guidelines will be addressed at the October Board meeting.

**Public Schools Update** Both Nebinger Elementary School and Meredith Elementary School have received Community Design Collaborative Grants (like the Weccacoe grant) to redesign their playground areas. I am in touch with the individuals heading up both efforts. A Friends of Nebinger group has started up, led by parents of pre-schoolers who live within the Nebinger catchment (article in Crier and info on web site)

**Big Bellies in QV for locations on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets?** South Philly Review article, June 23, about South of South Neighborhood Association's (SOSNA) partnership with Streets Dept.—purchased Big Bellies that the City will maintain and repair. Have had calls/complaints about trash cans/lack of trash cans on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> and S. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Is this a possible solution for locations that had regular trash cans on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> and S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, or other points in QV—shall we pursue this idea?

**November Board Elections:** Carla has put an article in the Crier about the elections and the first call for any nominations.

**Latin Roots Festival** hosted by Raices Culturales Latinoamericanas, Inc. at Settlement Music and at Weccacoe on June 24<sup>th</sup> –26<sup>th</sup> was a great success. They hope to repeat at same venues. End of Executive Director's Report

**Casinos:** Foxwoods is in court so there is nothing concrete to report at this time. The mandate remains for them to be up and running by December 2012 in order to keep their license. This seems highly unlikely given the current state of the site.

**Sustainability Committee:** The committee reported that it received a grant to design and install a prototype dog poop disposal station that uses natural processes to compost dog waste. It should provide a convenience for dog owners and help keep litter baskets from filling with unsanitary waste and hopefully reduce the amount of dog waste on the streets. The committee will

also distribute educational materials about the harmful effects of dog waste, which can be washed into the Delaware River, the water supply for thousands of people. It will be placed in Mario Lanza Park.

**Mario Lanza Park Dog Area Committee:** \$23,038 was raised to make improvements to the dog area in the park. The new surface is now completed, the front wall has been rebuilt (south end of the dog area), a new gate installed, permanent signs listing the “rules of the run” hung and a permanent water fountain is on order for subsequent installation. A total of \$20,494 was spent to complete these improvements. An article was written for the current issue of the Crier describing the improvements and listing the name of every donor to the project. The Board thanked Honey Pernoy for all her hardwork in fund raising, researching appropriate surfaces, gathering cost estimates and serving as “general contractor” for the installation of all the new improvements. The committee will now be dissolved as it has completed the charges given it by the Board, namely to create a set of rules governing the use of the area and to solve the problems of dust and mud created by the previous surface. The Board thanks all members of the committee --Walt Lowthian, John Solether, Lisa Mell, Don Ackerman, Kathy Dilonardo, Honey Pernoy and Carla Puppini for their hard work on this issue, over the last two plus years. There is an initiative to form a neighborhood group to maintain the dog area.

**South Street Head House District:** The curfew is being enforced on South Street and City Council is considering new rules associated with the curfew to help maintain order. Jeff H. is working with the District on economic development; if any board members want to get involved let Jeff H. or Jeff R. know of your interest.

**Zoning:** The rewrite of the code is the subject of a hearing by City Council, Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Jeff R had the draft of comments to be made to City Council by the Crosstown Coalition of which Queen Village is a member. Jeff R made a motion that we support “The Proposed Comments of the Crosstown Coalition for City Council Hearing on September 14, 2011”. Mike seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mike recommended that we support the comments as proposed. He says that the current code is over 50 years old and does not cover many of the situations that have evolved since then, making the application of the code very unpredictable for both developers and neighbors alike. This rewrite makes the code predictable and

institutionalizes the informal roles communities such as ours have taken with their zoning committees. It codifies the process for local community input, recognizes and preserves our Neighborhood Conservation District and updates the uses allowed by right. It is the first time all of this has been spelled out in one document. The motion was passed. **Jeff R. asked Mike to send a letter in support of our position.**

**Proposal for Pedestrian Plazas:** Jim Markham, Queen Village resident and former Board member made a presentation. The Mayor's office is offering \$30,000 grants to create pedestrian plazas throughout the city. The South Street Headhouse Business Association is willing to take the lead on creating a plaza in the last block of Passyunk Ave. where it comes into South Street. The grant provides for street furniture and plantings and possibly other amenities such as lighting. The Street Department would maintain the plaza. Bill S made a motion that the Board support the concept of the development of the blocks on Passyunk Avenue between Bainbridge and South Streets as a pedestrian plaza, appoint Jim Markham a liaison with the South Street Headhouse District in regard to its application to the City for this purpose, with the stipulation that he report back to the board on the details. The motion was seconded and passed by the board.

**Nominating Committee:** Jeff R. has appointed Mike as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Mike went over each position on the board and whether the current incumbent could run again and attempted to determine if they were going to run again. The only current board members who do not need to run at this time are Jeff H., Amy, Keith and Mike. **Mike suggested that he, Amy, and Keith make up the committee which will report back to the board at the October meeting.**

**Take Back Vacant Land Campaign:** A community land bank is being created so that vacant lands in the city no longer simply sit vacant but some are put back into active service for the community as gardens, parks, etc. Jeff H. is active in the campaign. Since it was late further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

**Community Building—Weccacoe Playground:** The Friends of Weccacoe Playground have completed the Community Design Collaborative for the playground/exterior. The board needs to identify the functions it see the community needing and determine if any (or all) of those needs can be fulfilled

by the building. **Carla will send a reminder to all board members to address this question and email her with their thoughts. Carla, Ted and Walt will form a committee to read through these ideas and resolve what changes, improvements, rehab needs to be done to the building so that it meets those needs and report back to the board so that any changes can be incorporated into exterior improvements.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dilonardo  
Recording Secretary