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Board Meeting

At Weccacoe, March 3, 2016

Board Members Attending: Lauren Leonard (President), Eleanor Ingersoll (Executive Vice President), Duncan Spencer (Vice President), Ben Schindler (Treasurer), Amy Grant, Melissa Donnelly, Maria Frizelle Roberts, and Joe Felicetti

Staff: Yael Levin

Board Members Absent: Jeff Hornstein (Secretary), Sharnell Croom, Justin Fishman, Frank Tavani, and Inez Green

Guests: Richard Wolk - Central Delaware Advocacy Group, and Betty Borodiak -Friends of Gateway Park.

Visitor Presentations

Richard Wolk, representing Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG), presented on development along the Delaware River and various neighborhood efforts to engage and shape the process. CDAG has been working through a process for the last five years to get to an overlay and plan set in stone on what can and can't be done as far as development on the river. The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) led efforts to get funding for the pathway along the river that connects neighborhoods and allows for walking and biking. Bart Blatstein, a developer, wants to build three large projects along the river. CDAG wants to preserve Water Street steps, for example, along with other historical elements of the river.

Mr. Wolk requested funds from QVNA for CDAG to continue their work to advocate for neighborhoods along the river. Ben Schindler believed that QVNA granted CDAG \$500 last year, but needs to confirm.

Ben and Yael are going to confirm level of funding provided last year and the board will vote on the donation to this group next meeting per the Board's donation policy.

CDAG meetings are open to all. Mostly held in Society Hill, 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 6pm. Their website (<https://centraldelawareadvocacygroup.wordpress.com/>) provides minutes from all of their meetings.

Betty Borodiak, representing Friends of Gateway Park (FOGP), presented on history of group and upcoming plans. FOGP was formed in 2013 to support the development of a green space that runs along South Front Street from Washington Avenue to South Street. QVNA board approved FOGP as official Friends Group of Queen Village. A \$50,000 grant was awarded by

State Greenways Trails and Recreation Project. The group also received \$10,000 from individual donors.

Phase I of the project is meant to include plantings along sidewalk and some tree removal where necessary and tree plantings. Phase 2 will be hardscaping directly under 95 where grass is mud now and there's water runoff. Phase 3 will include mounds of dirt with plants on top to hide the parking lot visually to people passing by.

The group is working on a logo, branding and media plan for the purposes of stakeholder engagement.

Ms. Borodiak presented on the challenges FOGP has faced, including difficulty in getting response from the Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC). FOGP also needs to apply for extension for the State Greenways Trails and Recreation Project grant because they have yet to spend the money due to delays.

FOGP is under the understanding that profits from the two Queen Village parking lots under 95 is required by ILMC to go to mitigation of highway impact. FOGP presented rough estimates of what they thought QVNA is paying in city taxes, to Parkway (parking lot management firm), and ILMC. Ben Schindler provided latest monthly parking revenue at \$14,000, QVNA is paying ILMC \$3,542 a month to "rent" the lots and so QVNA is seeing just over \$10,000 net a month, but that net has fluctuated each month.

There was then disagreement between the Board and FOGP on the amount of money that was "promised" when expanding the parking lot was negotiated.

Both the Board and FOGP agreed next steps would be for FOGP to come back to board with specific asks and timelines, etc., while the Board would look into what can be done to improve relationships with ILMC, PennDOT, etc.

Treasurer's Report

Ben Schindler presented February financials to the Board. Ben will set up call with Finance Committee at beginning of April to organize for the Spring grant cycle. Ben will request that Cathy create a timeline and the board will provide amount that is budgeted for grants. It was proposed that the grant cycle take place in the second quarter and fourth quarter of each year.

Motion to approve February financials. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Lauren Leonard presented proposed timeline for neighborhood survey. The hope is to close the survey before the summer. Amy explained how the 2004 survey was completed. It was suggested that some questions from the 2004 survey be included, but issues have shifted and the committee questions will reflect current issues better. Amy programed the survey layout and will lead plugging questions in and analysis of data once received.

Lauren also reported that QVK9 contacted her and informed her that the group has a new leader.

Lauren reported on behalf of Jeff Hornstein that Plenty Café negotiations have been completed and a status update on **Essene's liquor permit request – QVNA filed a petition to intervene.**

Executive Director's Report

Yael Levin reported on the outcome of the Painting with a Twist event. \$500 in donations is expected based on number of seats sold and getting half of those sales. Thank you to Amy Shalanski for organizing this event.

QVNA is providing space to help seniors to fill out tax forms for rent rebate on March 11 from 11 to 1pm.

Yael met with Michelle from Keep Philadelphia Beautiful and gave contact information for Nebinger.

Yael gave an update on zoning compliance issues at properties on Reese and Randolph Streets. Mike Hauptman from the Zoning Committee is following up on these properties. At the Goldstein's property, the Zoning Committee did not approve 4 stories. At the proposed house to be built on the corner of S Front St and Beck St, the Zoning Committee did not approve the variance for an open parking space, but the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) approved.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.