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Board Meeting

At Weccacoe, September 8, 2016

Board Members Attending: Lauren Leonard (President), Eleanor Ingersoll (Executive Vice President), Duncan Spencer (Vice President), Ben Schindler (Treasurer), Joe Felicetti, Amy Grant, Inez Green, Justin Fishman, and Liz Grimaldi.

Staff: Yael Levin

Board Members Absent: Jeff Hornstein (Secretary), Melissa Donnelly, and Maria Frizelle Roberts.

Guests: Jonathan Rubin (Friends of Bainbridge Green), Khalid Ali (Friends of Front Street Green, formerly Friends of Gateway Green), Mike Hauptman (Chair of the Zoning Committee), Kathy Dilonardo (Chair Grants Committee), Cathy Conway (Emeritus Board member)

Frank Tavani stepped down and Liz Grimaldi appointed. Sharnell Croom was removed from the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Ben Schindler presented the June, July and August financials to the Board. Financials are strong after the summer, our reserves have built up and board should explore ways to spend it down at end of year. There were fewer expenses over the summer other than Summer at Courtyard.

The fall grant cycle will be announced soon. Ben suggests \$25,000 for this cycle and also suggests board discretionary spending. The Board is asked to send three suggestions for board spending/investing to better neighborhood. Board discussed how long grant recipients should have to spend funds awarded, which should be added to grant language.

The Board decided that grants should be funded within one year of the award.

The 2015 990 is being sent out via email for board approval.

Motion to approve June, July and August financials. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Yael Levin's, Executive Director QVNA, review is scheduled for September 19.

The QVNA Board Election is November 17th with four seats open to fill. Nominations will be accepted at the September and October general meetings. The Nominations Committee consists so far of Melissa Donnelly and Justin Fishman. A third person is needed on the Committee.

We want to review active and non-active funds as well as formalize fiscal sponsorship. This will enable us to hold money correctly and move forward with existing projects. It is a neighborhood service, but there are limits for what we can provide to groups. Gateway Green has been the incentive to tighten up this process and it is to protect QVNA Board and the groups. As Board terms change, everything should live in one spot and be clear. How does the Board want to focus more or less of its time on this type of project? Some of the groups require a lot of administrative time and we have to decide if we want to commit to it or have them become independent.

The Grants Committee will remain independent of the Board, is open to neighbors to join and must provide comprehensive summaries on applications and award recommendations. The Board will vote up or down to fund grants. It is important to follow-up with grant recipients to see results/impact of grants on neighborhood. We can also post this in magazine and website. We should improve publicity so neighborhood groups and organizations are better aware of deadlines.

Executive Director's Report

The summer was busy with Summer at Courtyard, which was a huge success thanks to the strong collaboration with Eleanor, Justin, Barry and Kandi. The increase in programming days meant more time at the program and less time in the office.

Art in Queen Street Tunnel has received positive comments from community. The south side has art from Fleisher while the north side has a mural by an artist found by Paradigm.

QVNA and BVNA held a school supply drive in late August/early September to support Nebinger students. We collected a record number of supplies and Nebinger staff appreciates the support. Neighbors can still support Nebinger and Meredith through DonorChoose projects and other ways listed on their respective websites.

Yael is working with Lauren to create an organizational calendar to track meetings, magazine themes and signature events. Also exploring software to keep board organized, track priorities and staff time.

Committee, Friends Group, and Task Force Reports

Friends of Bainbridge Green – Jonathan Rubin

Jonathan Rubin provided an update of Friends of Bainbridge Green. The group is rebranding with a new website. They will continue to beautify and improve Bainbridge Green with flowers, paint and more programming. The group is interested in applying for a Knight City Challenge Grant. The intent is to complete a capital project to renovate the space through South Street Headhouse District. A fundraising brunch is scheduled for October 16.

Zoning Committee – Michael Hauptman

Ian Litwin of the Planning Commission met with the committee to remap the neighborhood. The committee also conducted and reviewed a neighborhood survey that received 225 responses. Queen Village is currently zoned primarily as multifamily dwellings, but there is a preference for single family zoning for certain blocks. Smaller blocks should be single family while larger streets such as Washington Ave should be CMX-2 (1st Floor commercial). The results are posted in the September magazine issue. The committee has a proposal, which has been seen by the CPC. If the Board approves the proposal, the committee would like to present it at the October general meeting and then take it to City Council for approval.

Motion to approve the Zoning Proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Friends of Front Street Green (Formerly Friends of Gateway Green) – Khalid Ali

The Executive Committee sent a letter to the group outlining next steps and proceeding with RFP, which is almost ready to be submitted. We need to respond to the group for how to move forward. Front Street Green is rebranding the group and has new leadership. Khalid has had many conversations with Lauren to move forward.

Magazine Committee – Amy Grant

Plan to increase rates in 2017. Presented comparison chart of QVNA’s current and proposed rates compared to WSWCA, SHCA and BVNA. Increasing rates enables magazine to sell less ads or put more money towards rising distribution costs or QVNA general funds. Demand in general is high for advertising and an incremental annual rate increase will occur.

Editorial Board and Executive Committee would like to clear up and tighten the process and procedures of magazine advertising including the back page. They would like to open up the back page with a first-come, first-serve basis and create a premium rate for it.

Kathy Conway would like to keep the back page because of her years of service to the neighborhood.

Board unanimously approves proposed rate increases for 2017 and to create a premium rate for the back page that is on a first come, first serve basis.

Public Safety – Joe Felicetti

South Street Headhouse District put up signs on street that connect with South St., notifying people they are entering residential neighborhoods.

Joe is continuing conversations and meetings with Police regarding American St, Carpenter St and Front Street concerns. The Lt is still in FBI training and Sgt is on vacation, but planning meetings are scheduled when everyone returns.

Friends of Weccacoe – Duncan Spencer

Playground is in final stages of completion and construction should end in October.

Schools and Youth – Eleanor Ingersoll

Summer at Courtyard was a success and everyone should read the article in Plan Philly. Going from 2 to 4 days of programming was a huge amount of work that required more planning. Would like to recap soon and start planning for 2017 so that we can figure out what our needs will be.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.