

PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION

Minutes of Meeting on OCTOBER 30, 2017

Location: The Methodist Hospital, 2301 S. Broad St.

Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Attending: 23 member associations, represented by 37 delegates:

Eugene Desyatnik, Joe Celantano, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn**; Leah Strenger, Dennis Pilsets, **Callowhill NA**; Celeste Hardester, Jim Petkovits, **Central Roxborough CA**; Steve Huntington- PCC Chair, Jeff Brandt, Bill West, **Center City RA**; Larissa Mogano, **Cobbs Creek NA**; Meg Greenfield, Bill Epstein, **East Falls CA**; J Miguel Garces , Jerry Salut, Sarah Stevenson, **East Point Breeze Neighbors**; Jamie Gauthier, **Garden Court CA**; Paul Rossi, **Girard Estate NA**; Albert Hicks, **Hawthorne Empowerment**; Drew Murray, Andy Toy, **Logan Square NA**; Patti Tahan, Colleen McDonough, Andrew Barbato, **Lower Moyamensing CA**; Kevin Smith, **Manayunk NC**; Matt Ruben, **Northern Liberties NA**; Deniuse Pettus, **Overbrook Farms**; Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park**; Ilene Wilder, **Passyunk Square CA**; Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA**; Mary Tracy, Lorna Katz, Rosanne Loesch, **Society Hill CA**; Peter Zutter, **S. Broad Street NA**; Murray Spencer, **SOSNA**; Eic Santoro, **Spruce Hill CA**;

Also present: Liz Biagioli and John Dixon, Blue Bell Hill Civic; Blaise Tobia, Powelton Village CA; David Masur, Philly Healthy Schools Initiative – Executive Director, Penn Environment; Nicole Westerman, Executive Director, Rebuild Program, City of Philadelphia.

Not represented: 8 Associations, including, East Kensington NA, East Passyunk Civic Assn; Fishtown Neighbors Assn; Mantua CA; Overbrook Park CA; Walnut Hill; Washington Square West; W. Powelton/Saunders Park

I. INTROS/ROLL CALL WELCOME – PCC Chair Jeff Hornstein

A. Quorum Count

New member civics (5 represented) and guests welcomed; NOTE: Girard Estate was represented at the meeting, but did not officially become a member until Oct. 31.

II. Guest Speakers

A. David Masur (not on agenda) – Philly Healthy Schools Initiative

Presented information that there is growing evidence of environmental conditions in Philadelphia schools that present health threats, including lead, asbestos, mold, lack of heat. His presentation was to expand the right-to-know and expand communication to media and officials, to gather support, and encourage volunteerism. FOR MORE INFORMATION; contact David Masur at 215-732-5897, davidmasur@pennenvironment.org

B. Nicole Westerman - Executive Director, Rebuild Program, City of Philadelphia

Presented powerpoint presentation of Rebuild program, which started as a vision of Michael DeBarnardis, whose role with Parks & Rec had provided a broad view of conditions of City neighborhood parks, recreation centers, libraries, playgrounds.

Rebuild has three ambitions:

- Improving these spaces because of their importance to wellbeing of communities.
- Economic opportunities that will promote equity for minorities and women and economic

growth for communities through awarded contracts and jobs
- Community engagement – rally people, give them a voice, build stewardship

Budget is \$500 million. \$300M will be 20 year bonds; \$50M from soda tax (currently being held in escrow pending suit in Supreme Court); \$100M from William Penn; remainder from other charitable fund resources TBD.

Rebuild projects will be run by non-profits, who will assign work to minority contractors.
Projects will generate jobs in communities

City Council approved Ordinance (Bill 170206) in June to approve bond borrowing.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT - Jeff Hornstein

A. Reminder: WATER DEPT: Another City program your civic may be interested in – Water Dept says they are undersubscribed for their SOAK-IT-UP program

B. FISHTOWN NA lives – they were able to get D&O coverage; they are not here this evening because they are having their own meeting

C. D&O INSURANCE – City Council is now interested in a City-sponsored insurance D&O program; also, Love & Dale (broker) is looking at how to pull together a multi-organization plan that would cover PCC members. Crosstown Coalition might be the holder of policies, with each member having a rider. Love & Dale will come to December PCC meeting.

Eugene Desyatnik said that Bella Vista's coverage is now 1/10th of what it used to be, with a higher retention.

Meg Greenfield asked about coverage for volunteers, such as zoning committee members, and also observed that coverage that is too broad can cover people you don't need to cover.

Matt Ruben agreed that the City should be insuring RCO's but that this would only cover RCO-related activities, not other kinds of suits, so civics will still need coverage other than what the City provides. He also cautioned about how insurers settle suits – that they hire attorneys who settle rather than fighting a suit . . . so members may want to hire their own attorneys.

Jeff asked Eugene and Matt to co-chair the D&O insurance committee.

D. MINUTES OF SEPT 16 MEETING

Drew Murray moved to approve, Eric Santoro seconded; minutes approved

E. DELEGATE MEETING NEW COMMITTEES

- Parking – Ilene Wilder and Bill West are active on this

- Affordable Housing – work has started, with Steve Huntington leading

- Preservation/Sustainability – not yet pulled together – Eric Santoro will lead

F. NEXT MEETING – Dec. 11 was agreed upon as the only valid option before the end of the year. Location TBD.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT – bypassed

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AFFORDABLE HOUSING –

Steve Huntington reported that legislation was introduced in June requiring that for every development having at least 10 units, 1 has to be affordable. The bill, sponsored by Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez, who has set up many subcommittees since Aug. 15. We have attended 7 of these meetings, as have PACDC, BIA, DW. Materials are circulated at the meetings that are not to be circulated out of the meetings, and minutes are not taken. (Steve has taken and distributed detailed minutes of the meetings he has attended.)

As currently drafted, there are three options for affordable housing inclusion: On site; built offsite; an In-Lieu payment to the Housing Trust Fund. (Note: this bill is based on legislation in Chicago, but it is missing many provisions.) We should be concerned about height and density allowances in the second half of the bill.

Jeff Hornstein commented that this bill is going against all the work this group did with the Zoning Commission, and that Code guidelines are being forfeited to Affordable Housing.

The PCPC has yet to review the legislation, which has not yet been revised. We are concerned that any revisions will be done at the last minute, that the bill will be called before the Rules committee with inadequate notice for us to respond, and that then it will be voted on nine days later. (Harrisburg and DC take testimony and then have second hearings; Phila City Council doesn't do this.) Steve suggests we send a letter (see blue meeting handout) asking for 75 days notice before the legislation goes to Rules.

A motion to send the letter was made by Rosanne Loesch; Barb Capozzi seconded. Motion passed.

B. ZONING – see handout provided at meeting

Call for Committee Members : Steve Huntington circulated a Zoning sign-up sheet of people who want to be on the Zoning & Land Use Committee and also that members' Zoning chairs should be on distribution list.

Bill 17067200 which would double the required parking spaces for multi-family units (from three to six) was opposed by CCRA, saying that the Bill doesn't solve the parking problems it is intended to address, and that this is another instance of significantly altering the Code, a mere five years after the Zoning Code was enacted, without basis for stating what conditions have changed. Jeff Braff made a motion for PCC to oppose. B. Capozzi seconded. Discussion indicated that some civics think the Bill is a good idea. (This is also a Parking Committee issue.) **Members need to take this back to their boards for a decision.**

Digital Advertising kiosks – Handout circulated showing its use in NYC, and a map of potential locations in Phila. Art Commission will be hearing proposal for second time on Nov. 1st. Mary Tracy moved to oppose Kiosks. Rosanne Loesch seconded. Discussion showed that some members are interested in the kiosks. ***A motion was made by Matt Ruben to ask the Art Commission to refrain from voting until neighborhood outreach has been achieved. Mary seconded. Motion passed.*** We will try to get a speaker on the issue at a future meeting.

LOOP Extension Bill 170901 – Protects real estate assessment increase if the assessment is tripled within a give year. Amendment is to extend to people with incomes 150% of HUD’s Annual Median Income of Philadelphia - \$124,000. **Members need to take this back to their boards for a decision.**

C. PARKING COMMITTEE – Ilene Wilder and Bill West report that the committee will meet on Nov. 8. – **if you are interested, come to the meeting.**

EV – Electric Vehicle chargers – there is a moratorium on more stations . There is an EV Task Force that Bill and Ilene are officially part of. OTIS – Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, Streets.

The PCC Parking Committee has determined that the City doesn’t have a parking strategy. They would like to help the City develop one. In speaking with OTIS, they have asked to be on our committee – we are excited about this development.

D. EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Jeff Hornstein.

School Board: City is asking SRC to vote to dissolve itself on Nov. 16 meeting. A six-month process would ensue of forming a 13-member nominating committee in order to appoint a new school board. FONE has been invited to be on the nominating committee. If you have suggestions of candidates for the nominating committee or for the board itself, send them to Jeff Hornstein.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

PUERTO RICO RELIEF – Matt Ruben reported that NLNA decided to make a donation because they have many residents from Puerto Rico. Some other PCC members are considering making donations. The idea is to pool the funds and donate them to United for Puerto Rico, which is well-rated. Donations can be made out to the Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition, and sent to Queen Village Association, 405 Catherine Street, 19147. Any donations are needed by December 1st. **Members can take this back to their boards for a consideration.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

JUNE MINUTES – *Eric Santoro moved to approve; Matt Ruben seconded. Motion passed.*

VIII. PROBLEM CLINIC

Blue Bell Hill: John Dixon of Blue Bell Hill Civic asked about how to handle a problem they are having with a property owner that wants to demolish and build multi-family. Zoning Committee will assist them with their questions.

Manayunk Neighborhood Council – Kevin Smith said MNC was thrown off a common pleas appeal (Judge Collins) for lack of standing, because they didn’t have a member within 150’ of developer property. They are appealing to a three-judge panel. Question discussed but not resolved; follow-up discussion offline

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary