

PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION

Minutes of Meeting on NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Location: 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500

Called to Order: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:43 p.m.

Attending: 17 Associations, represented by:

Matt Skolnik, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn**; Joanne Kundrat, **Callowhill N A**; Celeste Hardester, Lynda Payne, Jim Petkovits, **Central Roxborough CA**; Steve Huntington – PCC Chair, **Center City RA**; Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk Civic Assn**; Miguel Garces, **East Point Breeze Neighbors**; Maurice Jones, **Garden Court CA**; Albert Hicks, **Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition**; Andrew Toy, **Logan Square NA**; Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park**; Ilene Wilder, **Passyunk Square CA**; Lorna Katz, Mary Tracy, **Society Hill CA**; Monica Calkins, **Spruce Hill CA**; Judy Applebaum, **Washington Square West**; Patricia Forcina, Patricia Forcina, **West Passyunk N**; Lucia Esther, **W. Powelton/Saunders Park**; Magalie Larson, **Woodland Terrace Homeowners**; **Also present:** Joe Schiavo, Zoning and Land Use Chair; Rob Kettell; Rosanne Loesch; Tanner Rouse

Not represented: 8 Associations, including

East Falls CA, East Kensington NA, Fishtown Neighbors Assn , Northern Liberties NA; Overbrook Farms: Queen Village NA; S. Broad Street NA;

I. HOUSEKEEPING – PCC Chair Steve Huntington

A. Quorum Count

Attendance sheet indicates 66% of members represented;

B. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, Sept 26, 2016, Judy Applebaum, Washington Square West moved to approve the minutes and Ilene Wilder, Passyunk Square CA seconded. The motion passed, minutes approved.

C. Finance Report

Treasurer Ed Panek is absent. Chair S. Huntington briefly reported that there is \$5100 in assets, with no outstanding obligations. No update on status of member dues was provided.

D. Next Meeting - PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Agreement on the date of **Jan. 23rd, 2017, 6:00** , and that the meeting will be in the annual party/holiday format as in 2016. Annual report to be delivered, with social mingling of guests. Members should invite 2-3 members from their own civics who are not regular attendees; each civic can also invite their council-person/staff representative.

The party location is indefinite, based on expiration of lease and move-out at 1600 Market, Suite 2500. Alternate ideas: Jefferson, Bar Association, South Philly Library, Methodist

Ilene Wilder volunteered to oversee planning and asked for volunteers.

The next agenda item was taken out of order:

VI.B – Anti-SLAPP Initiative

Background: Peter Gold and Tanner Rouse worked with Steve Huntington on language for a Bill that was submitted to the Senate last year. Sen. Larry Farnese was the sponsor for the Bill, which the Senate passed 98-0. Communication was then attempted with Rep, Marsico, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, to keep it going, but the Bill languished with concern expressed about how it was written, and need for Chamber of Commerce input. A new Bill will have to be reintroduced again for any further activity to proceed.

Tanner Rouse said that many states have legislation against SLAPP suits. We are continuing to work on this. Peter Gold has spoken with Councilman Squilla about a City ordinance. City Hall is somewhat receptive.

Lorna Katz and Mary Purcell (?) met with State Rep. Mike O'Brien, who has offered to write the Bill, introduce it, and get it voted on in Harrisburg. He wants to partner with a Republican sponsor, and feels that starting the Bill with the House is the better strategy.

Peter Gold believes we need to continue communication with Rep. Marsico, and identify whom else we can speak with who has his ear. Joanne Kundrat of Callowhill has a connection in Hershey that she can contact regarding generating out-of-Philadelphia participation in this discussion.

It was also suggested that we can contact Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, (Republican) chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Note – his website pages states that his committee assignments are undetermined. Some State sites seem to be under construction at the moment.)

Roseanne Loesch of Society Hill asked if there are other Pennsylvania municipalities looking at this issue. Steve said there were other non-civic parties who were communicating with Sen. Farnese.

A question was asked about contacting Rep. John Taylor (Republican) to help on this. (Coordinate with O'Brien?)

II. REPORT ON OCT 22 9AM – 1:30 PM BUILDING BETTER CIVICS WORKSHOP - Rob Kettell

Rob Kettell reported there were 70 participants, with 20 of our 23 members represented, plus 19 new RCO's attended.

A Survey was conducted to determine how PCC could provide more value. Survey results are included in this board meeting handout . The strongest feedback indicated interest in

- more networking opportunities with other civics throughout the City, and
- Advocating for changes to City and State policies

III. SIGNAGE ON ONE PARKWAY AND MSB – Jeff Braff CCRA Ordinance 130109 (See Enclosure 10-16 re ordinance and approx. \$250,000 income expected from signs)

- A. The Advertising community is interested in using two municipal buildings for signage: MSB and 1515 Arch Street.

- B. **MOTION MADE** by Roseanne Loesch of Society Hill: Resolved that, in light of their location in the civic heart of the country’s only World Heritage designated city, an area that is one of the most recognizably Philadelphia places in the entire City, i.e., steps from Love Park, Dilworth Plaza, City Hall, and the Parkway, the PCC opposes the erection, attachment, or projection of any non-accessory signage, wraps, or displays on the structure or site of the Municipal Services Building and/or One Parkway (1515 Arch Street) pursuant to ordinance 130109. Judy Applebaum seconded the motion.
- C. Discussion: Mary Tracy said the material will be vinyl and that people inside the buildings would be looking through the windows at colored vinyl; Joanne Kundrat spoke with Councilman Squilla, who said that Council has already approved it, and that now it is just a matter of the Arts Commission approving the design. Jeff Graff reached out to Exec. Dir. Gary Jastrzab at PCPC who said that the Law Dept said that PCPC should not “fill in the blanks.” Maurice Jones of Garden Court said the status of being a World Heritage site is important, and how we can alter this historical city when we are receiving tax credits. **Further discussion about putting together and Advocacy Alliance with: Preservation Alliance; Design Advocacy Group; Philadelphia Parks Alliance; Parkway Council; Center City District; Hidden City Philadelphia.** Alice of DAG has offered to write an Editorial; Roseanne suggested we testify at the Arts Commission hearing. **(No motion was made regarding this.)**
- D. A vote was taken on the motion. All represented members supported the motion except for Logan Square, whose board hadn’t vote yet. Andy Toy said he would ask about getting an email vote.
- E. Mary Tracy said we have been in touch with PennDOT because we need to get certain distance regulations in place.
- F. Paul Stenke of the Arts Commission said he believes this won’t come up in December, but we don’t know. The Administration has appointed some people to the Arts Commission.

IV. ZONING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE – Committee Chair Joe Schiavo

A. Joe Schiavo is stepping down as Committee Chair

Appreciation was expressed for the tremendous service Joe has provided, and that he sets a high standard for future chairs. Please email your suggestions to Steve.

B. Revised Bill 160865 revising orange Zoning Notice posting regulations to include posting reason for ZBA hearing. SEE ENCLOSURE pg 16. At Rules Committee Hearing, it was noted that L&I has to redact contract info. It passed out of Rules Committee on Nov. 15, and will go to Council on Nov. 30. One of the criteria of the ordinance it what if a zoning hearing is continued, the new hearing date has to be posted on the orange Zoning Notice.

C. Proposed Taskforce to visit Darrell Clarke’s office Re Council procedures relative to land-use legislation. Jeff Young and Ed Panek are crafting and agenda to get more civic inclusion.

D. RCO Regulation Recommendations – the PCC Zoning Committee reviewed regulations that have been considered during 2016 and proposed to PCPC. These

recommendations were not taken up by PCPC because they would require change to the Zoning Code. Hence the committee took a vote to prioritize the top five recommendations and plans to present them to Councilmen Squilla and Henon for sponsorship. Prioritization is thus:

1. Start the RCO 45-day meeting clock after all meeting coordination decisions are made by the responsible parties, and after the RCO(s) have been served notice of the appeal application. Establish minimum RCO meeting public notice period standards and reconcile 45-day meeting clock and expedited hearing conflicts;
2. Establish an RCO minimum area standard to deter single-block and single-issue groups that congest the RCO mechanism;
3. Eliminate qualifying criteria exemptions for political wards and Pennsylvania municipal authorities;
4. Return to the one-year RCO registration standard; and
5. Establish clear re-notification protocol and responsibility for any continued public meeting or hearing.

E. Letter Endorsing Bill 160966 to Revise Civic Design Review Panel & Criteria to include sustainability. SEE ENCLOSURE p. 17. This Bill would add a seat to the Civic Design Review Committee to represent Sustainability. Steve Huntington has taken the lead on this and has spoken with Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown about sponsoring it. (Joe Schiavo feels that the CDR process is succeeding in part because it gets regular coverage from Plan Philly.

A MOTION was made by Magali Larson to write a letter in support of this Bill. Joanne Kudrat seconded the motion. Motion was approved with no objections.

V. NEIGHBORHOOD HATE GRAFFITI – Ilene Wilder, Passyunk Square – see enclosure pp. 18-19

Ilene reported that in recent weeks, hate graffiti and significant vandalism and property destruction has been occurring in parts of the City, including swastikas. The Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee released a statement, which Passyunk Square and East Point Breeze civics both put on their website. Passyunk Sq has also created a tolerance/respect poster. Ilene asked if PCC would want to make a statement, with the goal of tamping down fear and channeling positive energy.

A MOTION was made by Judy Applebaum that PCC should write a letter condemning the hate rhetoric that has appeared in graffiti in the neighborhoods and in support of sending messages acknowledging our position. This letter would be sent to Chris Brenner/Philly.com. Joanne Kudrat seconded. The motion passed. Ilene will captain writing the letter, Andy Toy will aid, Steve Huntington will help circulate.

VI. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE Steve Huntington

Letter to Gov. Wolf re Stance on Education Suit (William Penn School District v. Pennsylvania Department of Education)

A letter was drafted by Eric Santoro and Barry Grossbach of Spruce Hill and Matt Skolnik of Bella Vista. Eric feels the funding should be legislative decision, not judicial, but is OK with the letter being sent, now that it has been edited. Matt made **a MOTION** to send the letter as revised to Gov. Wolf. Judy Applebaum seconded. Vote taken had one objection, so the letter will be sent.

VII. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS COMMITTEE (Chair Jeff Hornstein absent but submitted the following report, which Ilene Wilder read)

A. Ed Comm has been very active. Has convened well-attended Friends Of Neighborhood Education meetings monthly since October 2014. Two since last delegates meeting. Have expanded to include emerging Friends groups in Logan, Kingsessing, and East Oak Lane.

B. FONE submitted two Knight Cities Challenge grants applications

C. PR and branding campaign in partnership with District's philanthropic arm, a grassroots campaign to change narrative around public education in Philadelphia

D. A tech tool called vPEN ("Virtual Public Education Neighborhood"), which would allow anyone with a smartphone to volunteer, connect with volunteers, or start a school Friends group. Partner with Philadelphia Public School Notebook.

E. 4) Wm Penn Foundation. FONE has been asked, again, to submit for a planning grant to see if the Friends Group model can be replicated in non-gentrifying areas. We will be working on that application between now and January.

F. 5) Philadelphia Public School Giving Circle. Over 20 applications have been received from a dozen schools for the first round of grants from this \$10,000 fund. We'll be closing applications and vetting proposals by Dec 1.

G. 6) Upcoming FONE events. Diversity & Inclusion Workshops. FONE aims to engage a consultant to help with diversity & inclusion in the Friends movement. Goal is to do two summits a year - one on D&I and one on more general topics.

H. Finally, FONE has decided to recruit an Academic Advisory Board to help determine what metrics the Friends movement out to be tracking. School climate seems to be a promising one.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary