

PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION

Minutes of Meeting on JUNE 12, 2017

Location: 1608 Walnut Street, 12th Floor

Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:58 p.m.

Attending: 17 Associations, represented by:

Matt Skolnik, Brandy Bones, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn;**; Celeste Hardester, Jim Petkovits, **Central Roxborough CA;** Steve Huntington- PCC Chair, Jeff Brandt, Wade Albert, **Center City RA;** Nick Esposito, **East Kensington NA,** Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk Civic Assn;** Jerry Salut, Sarah Stevenson, **East Point Breeze Neighbors;** Matt Karp, Joseph Kain, **Fishtown Neighbors Assn;** Jamie Gauthier, Maurice Jones, **Garden Court CA;** Drew Murray, **Logan Square NA;** Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park;** Ilene Wilder, Sarah Anton, **Passyunk Square CA;** Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA;** Mary Tracy, Lorna Katz, Roseanne Loesch, **Society Hill CA;** Peter Zutter, **S. Broad Street NA;** Barry Grosbach, **Spruce Hill CA;** Lucia Esther, Chuck bode, **W. Powelton/Saunders Park;** Judy Applebaum, Lyric Chen, **Washington Square West .**

Also present: Tanner Rouse, *ex officio*

Not represented: 8 Associations, including, Callowhill N A; East Falls CA; , Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition, Northern Liberties NA; Overbrook Farms; Walnut Hill; West Passyunk NA;

I. HOUSEKEEPING – PCC Chair Steve Huntington

A. Quorum Count

Attendance sheet indicates 17 out o 24 members represented

B. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, May 8, 2017, Lucia Esther of **W. Powelton/Saunders Park** moved to approve, and Jeff Hornstein, Queen Village seconded. The motion passed, minutes approved.

C. Finance Report

Treasurer Ed Panek is absent. Chair S. Huntington briefly reported that we are expecting a reimbursement from the Goldenberg Group (FONE event) and that with upcoming member dues payments, he expects to have around \$6000 after the next deposits.

D. Next Meeting - PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR – SEPT. 16th, 9:00 am
for Retreat. Location TBD.

E. Dues - Still waiting for payments from 8 members

II. MATTERS REQUIRING VOTES

A. CREATE NEW OFFICER POSITION: CHAIR EMERITUS -

Ilene Wilder moved to create a new position that is Chair Emeritus, lasting for one year after a new Chair assumes that role. Matt Skolnick seconded the motion.

Discussion included:

- questions about responsibilities, and it was suggested that the new board will need to determine that, that we can see how it works best, but that this position allows for an appropriate transfer of knowledge that has accrued thanks to Steve Huntington's dedication over the years, and that this is the first time the Board has transitioned since PCC became a 501c3 in 2014.
 - Will Chair Emeritus be part of the EC? According to the Bylaws, which do not need to be changed in order to enact this position, Yes.
 - One person expressed a preference that the position be Executive Director
 - Questions about whether the Chair currently votes and whether the Chair Emeritus would. Voting is primarily a function of members representing the positions of their own boards.
- Motion passed with one vote against.**

B. SLATE OF NEW OFFICERS

Chair: Ilene Wilder nominated Jeff Hornstein of Queen Village NA for Chair. Jeff accepted nomination. Jim Petkovits seconded; Steve Huntington asked if there were other nominations. **With none forthcoming, the motion passed with one abstention.**

Other Officers: Judy Applebaum moved to nominate Jamie Gauthier for Vice Chair, Ilene Wilder for Treasurer, and Celeste Hardester for Secretary. Jeff Hornstein nominated Joe Kain for the second Vice Chair position. Barry Grosbach seconded both motions.

The motions passed with no opposition.

C. LETTER RE GERRYMANDERING

Tanner Rouse reported that *Ex Officio* member Rob Kettel and Steve Huntington have worked on a letter regarding Gerrymandering that would be sent to Philadelphia members of the Harrisburg delegation who have not yet signed on to co-sponsor SB 22 HB 722, including White, O'Brian, Hughes, Tartaglione, and Street (Sharif). Barb Capozzi moved to support ending this letter, Jeff H. seconded; Judy Applebaum suggested modifying the motion to also send thank you letters to delegates who are already supporting the bills.

The motion passed with 11 supporting, 1 opposing, and 4 abstentions

D. LETTER RE ASSIGNMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN SHOOTING

Letter drafted by members of Garden Court, Spruce Hill, Bella Vista, and W. Passyunk was circulated to members prior to board meeting. Four members had already voted they would support, and four others that they oppose sending the letter. Discussion included:

- concern that the letter should address policy, and not be officer-specific
- discomfort with wading into PPD Labor issues
- concern that the tone of the letter was too strident
- while several individuals expressed support for the letter, their boards did not; Jeff Hornstein suggested that this kind of issue, where consensus cannot be found, could become a subject to address at the retreat in terms of seeking alternate solutions for the civics who feel action is needed. Can something be done to aid them without representing the entire PCC?

The letter was not brought to motion.

III. UPDATES

A. FONE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (and also C. on Agenda)

Jeff Hornstein reported that there is exciting news regarding the William Penn Foundation, who summoned FONE to their headquarters. Also invited to the meeting were Sylvia Sims of Parent Power and (Denis?) Devine of Home and School Council. All were asked to pool together efforts so William Penn would feel more confident about supporting people who will be sharing knowledge. They discussed the concept of a Community Organizing Institute on how to do school support work, conducting a boot camp with deep training. WP realizes that FONE is serious about diversifying, and so FONE would still exist within all of this, but there would be cross-pollination with other groups. Questions were asked about having digital platforms where this information can be more well known, and that the School District could have these resources available.

B. WEST PASSYUNK NOT RENEWING

This civic is reorganizing, and has decided not to renew its membership for the time- being.

D. SLAPP IN HARRISBURG

State Rep John Taylor has been written to but there has been no response.

E. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING STATIONS

Ilene Wilder said a task force is being created; Steve suggested PCC should join it, that we should reach out to Councilmen Oh or Squilla. Roseanne Loesch said former Society Hill president Bob Curley would be a good person to join this.

F. SIGNAGE ON BEN FRANKLIN PARKWAY

Mary Tracy reports that the ad firm has not yet returned to the Arts Commission about this.. The PCPC has not written the missing language that would make the municipal standards equal commercial standards because they don't think there should be any municipal advertising. The Art Commission is frozen, unable to apply decisions without parameters. The concern is that City Parking has a history of illegal signage, and now they are looking at Filter Square. PPA leases land from the City and feels this allows them to slip in under the Municipal advertising act. A big concern is that all outdoor advertising regulations are vulnerable with the City making exceptions for themselves.

Mary suggests that PCC members look at locations in your neighborhood that are vulnerable to municipal advertising, and pay attention to permits. We need to appeal as many as we can.

Steve Huntington said we wrote a letter already. Barb Capozzi suggests writing another to Darrell Clarke and PCPC.

Roseanne Loesch made a motion to write a letter to PCPC (cc-ing appropriate officers) requesting that regulations currently in sign code be applied to municipal properties.

Mary suggested writing to each councilperson, asking that their district be carved out of this regulation. Steve feels it is better to write to Council members than PCPC. Jeff Braff said that Public Property is circumventing the PCPC. Someone suggested that Council needs to write the

outline of the bill and PCPC can fill in the detail. Mary reports that Councilman Squilla has said this matter is up to the PCPC.

A decision was made to form a subcommittee of Barb Capozzi and Mary Tracy to write a letter that would be sent to members for an email vote in the next couple of weeks.

BILL 170504 , there has been an Amendment to the Accessory Sign Bill, expanding what stores can do, but Mary thinks this is looking pretty good regarding limit on the number of signs and digital signage. The 4 Sq. Feet of signage allowance in every window has been removed.

G. SCHIAVO \$600 OLD CITY GREEN GIFT DELIVERED- Four civics contributed

H. RCO REGULATIONS BILL # 170285

This bill was held on Council's calendar for a month and then placed overnight on the floor and passed on June 8, 2017. It contains the amended language exempting wards operating as RCO's from rules pertaining to "regular" RCO's.

I. ZBA BILL 170335

Re a ZBA applicant disclosure form about which Steve Masters spoke at the last meeting was passed by Council on May 18.

J. LAST MINUTE COUNCIL AMENDMENTS

After speaking with Council President Clarke and Rules Committee Chair Councilman Greenlee re the frustration of 11th hour Council members' amendments not electronically posted prior to Council committee hearings, the Crosstown followed up with a May 18 letter. No reply has been received

K. HISTORIC COMMISSION POSTER/APPEALS FROM PLAN POSTING DATE

Roseanne Loesch reports that she and Paul Boni met with the Preservation Alliance and that they support the posting of this information. They plan to take this to the next level. Also, Councilwoman-At-Large Helen Gym will speak with Director of Planning and Development Anne Faddulon about the practice of plans being made available. (L&I states when they don't have them that they are being scanned – this actually makes sense in that, while the plans may already be pdfs, the stamped plans are not – thus the scanning.) We are asking that the 30-day appeal window begin when the plans are available for public access. We will ask Councilman Squilla to support this.

IV. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SEPT 16

Jeff Hornstein said that the idea is to hold another retreat as was held a couple years ago, in order to set the direction of PCC initiatives/focus. Come to the retreat prepared to talk about the issues that are important to your civic. A venue is needed, perhaps at Penn or the Bar Association offices. Guest speakers can be sought: Nicole Westerman – Rebuild; Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director; Police Commissioner Ross.

We want to recruit more members over the summer; goals are Mantua, SOSNA, and Powelton Village. Try to recruit members from your areas – “together we are a genius.”

We would like the presidents of civics to attend the Retreat if they are available. We will create a list serve of delegates, 3-4 per civic.

B. ANALYSIS OF ZBA ACTIVITY IN LAST & 10 YEARS

Matt Karp, Fishtown, presented an analysis, with handout) of ZBA decisions from data pulled from Opendataphilly.org. He did this study based on concern that in Fishtown, as many as 75% of RCO recommendations are overturned by the ZBA. Data shows an increase in permits granted relative to those being denied.

Jeff suggested that Matt add some summary statements about the data before it is shared further, and also to ask Jake at PlanPhilly to cover this.

Discussion about adding RCO decision data, too. Suggestion made for members to start tracking their own decisions, as well as ZBA final decisions on those same properties. Nick Esposito/E. Kensington said they use Trello software (<https://trello.com>) for tracking. He suggested this kind of data could also serve as a way to engage other civics in joining PCC if they feel their decisions are not being listened to by ZBA.

Continued discussion: how ZBA decisions are made, what would explanations be to RCO's, that ZBA needs to adhere to principles of planning; that in the new Code an explanation of hardship is not required; that several districts have not yet been rezoned subsequent to District Plan.

C. BILL 170504

Covered above in IIIF.

Next meeting Sept. 16th.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary