

PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION

Minutes of Meeting on MARCH 20, 2017

Location: 1608 Walnut Street, 12th Floor

Called to Order: 6:10 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Attending: 16 Associations, represented by:

Matt Skolnik, Brandy Bones, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn**; Joanne Kundrat, Leah Strenger, **Callowhill N A**; Celeste Hardester, Jim Petkovits, **Central Roxborough CA**; Steve Huntington- PCC Chair, Jeff Brandt, Wade Albert, **Center City RA**; Bill Epstein, **East Falls CA**; Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk Civic Assn**; Miguel Garces, **East Point Breeze Neighbors**; Matt Karp, Joseph Kain, **Fishtown Neighbors Assn**; Andrew Toy, **Logan Square NA**; Matt Ruben, **Northern Liberties NA**; Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park**; Ilene Wilder, **Passyunk Square CA**; Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA**; Mary Tracy, **Society Hill CA**; Barry Grosbach, **Spruce Hill CA**; Judy Applebaum, **Washington Square West**; **Also present:** Rob Kettell;

Not represented: 7 Associations, including, East Kensington NA, Garden Court CA; Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition; Overbrook Farms: S. Broad Street NA; W. Powelton/Saunders Park; Woodland Terrace Homeowners

I. HOUSEKEEPING – PCC Chair Steve Huntington

A. Quorum Count

Attendance sheet indicates 70% of members represented – 16 out o 23

B. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, Nov. 21, 2016, Jeff Hornstein, Queen Village, 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 \$2500 in the account. He will do a full report in next two weeks. Member dues will be due in June; each member billed.

D. Next Meeting - PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR – May 8th, 6:00 pm Agreement on the date of **May. 8th^d, 2017, 6:00**; Callowhill will be unable to attend.

E. Nomination meeting – will be held June 12

All positions are open except Secretary. To stay in office more than 3 years requires 75% vote o support.

II. UPDATES

A. CROSSTOWN ANNUAL REPORT - please send the report to your board, and members as possible

B. SLAPP in Harrisburg

Our members sent 378 letters to members of PA House last year. Bill stalled there. It has been agreed that some of PCC will meet with Rep. Mike O'Brien and Rep. John Taylor to discuss their sponsoring this bill. Society Hill is setting up this meeting.

C. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING STATIONS

A letter has been drafted to request City Council to institute a moratorium on 24/7 free parking

D. LOCALIZATOIN OF PARKING AUTHORITY

Councilman Oh presented a bill to City Council supporting moving the PPA to local authority. Law Department sent letter to Steve Huntington stating that the Bill was not compliant with City Charter, but Oh disagreed and presented the Bill. PCC gave testimony to value of having local authority.

E. SIGNAGE ON BF PARKWAY

The Jan. 16 letter sent by PCC to Mayor Kenney has had no response. The good news is that the Ad companies have not yet come back to the Art Commission for approval. Mary Tracy said that the PCPC is filling in regulations such that municipal buildings will be bound by the same regulations as in rest of Code.

F. ZONING NOTICE REVISION BILL 160865 PASSED

This is a victory for PCC – this is the first of three things we can be proud of. (See G & H) We wrote the Bill and it is the first bill drafted by a Citizens group to be passed by Council. Councilman Henon helped push it through.

G. CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW REVISION PASSED BILL 160966

This Bill, requiring a Sustainability representative on the CDR passed.

H. CONSTRUCTION PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY BILL 161108 IN COMMITTEE

This bill would require “Cattleshoot” walkways at construction sites to safeguard pedestrians. (Kenney had made this a campaign issue.) Matt Ruben reported it is happening in some areas.

I. LTR TO GOV. RE ED FUNDING

Letter to Wolf has had no response.

J. SCHIAVO OLD CITY GREEN GIFT DONATIONS

Callowhill and CRCA have donated. Steve Huntington to send an email to members with request for donations to support this, and info of where to send check.

III. MATTERS REQUIRING VOTES

A. QUESTIONNAIRES FOR CONTROLLER AND DA RACES -

Matt Ruben moved to approve questions, and Ilene Wilder seconded and motion was approved with the following provisions. On Controller questions, need to add questions of assessment of City's finances and what you would do to improve them, and what is your assessment of the health of the retirement system. To both questionnaires, need to add questions about bankruptcies and tax liens. Steve Huntington and Jeff Hornstein will update the questionnaires.

B. ZONING REGULATIONS FOR ADS ON CITY PROPERTY

No vote needed base on prior discussion in section II.

C. REBUILD

Discussion about sending letter of support to Mayor Kenney, who has subsequently backed down from initial intent to assign its management to smaller non-profits. Discussion of value of getting involved or staying out of it. Judy Applebaum moved that we not send the letter. Matt Ruben seconded. Motion approved.

D. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS CONFERRING 24/7 STREET PARKING FOR EV HOMEOWNERS

Discussion about concerns of City charging for these spaces but that wouldn't work as any EV can park in the space. Concern about not discouraging EV's by supporting moratorium; comparison to HP spaces, which are rife with abuse. Decision was made that Joe Kain of Fishtown would rewrite the letter, with Matt Ruben's input.

Matt mentioned that the old, large, red hydrants that no longer function do not require hydrant parking regulations; ask your councilperson for confirmation.

E. ANTI-SLAPP LEGISLATION

Last year, Peter Gold, Tanner Rouse, and Steve Huntington drafted a bill, based on laws of AZ, KS, CA; lawyers for Senate tweaked and it passed Senate but got stuck in House.

Peter Gold got a version drafted that would be for City only, but Matt Skolnick and Steve Huntington both feel it is on shaky legal ground. Jeff Hornstein said Councilman Squilla is willing to support, and that the current language is just a placeholder. But City doesn't have constitutional power to shape causes of action. Matt Ruben moved that we authorize Jeff Hornstein and Councilman Squilla to work on this. Rob Kettell seconded. Matt Skolnick expressed concern that this sets a precedent that L&I can make decisions. Matt withdrew his motion, revising it to say that Jeff will speak with Squilla; Judy Applebaum seconded. (Many reservations that this could work.)

IV. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

A. FONE

Jeff Hornstein said that FONE is conducting an Annual summit on April 29th – expect 100-150 people. It is Daylong networking and peer-to-peer communications. A venue is needed.

The FONE Steering Committee has grown, and they are progressing in efforts to expand membership to other schools. The Application to William Penn Foundation is submitted.

Giving Circle: Andy Toy said that \$10,000 has been raised at Philadelphia Foundation; Donations for Giving Circle go to the Philadelphia Foundation; people who gave have a say in how the money is used. For schools. Giving Circle has received the first cycle of grant requests from 21 schools; 9 have been chosen to receive up to \$500 – for supplemental activities – e.g. robotics

PCC is fiduciary sponsor for Giving Circle. We have received \$4300 from Phila Foundation, which we are distributing.

V. FEEDBACK REQUESTED

A. DESIGN GUIDELINES

Callowhill NA seeing information on guidelines that others may utilize. Matt Ruben said that Northern Liberties offers a workshop on Urban Design. Jeff Hornstein will provide QVA Guidelines to Steve Huntington.

B. ZBA & RCO INPUT

Fishtown looking at responsiveness of ZBA to RCO positions and asking for observations of other RCO's. Matt Karp provided a charted analysis of ZBA decision statistics for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. Permits granted increased from 39% to 61%. Permits denied has decreased from 15% to 6%. Data comes from OpenData.Philly.org. Matt was asked to provide data going back to before the new Zoning Code and send PCC members an updated pdf.

There was general concurrence that approvals are frequent. Celeste Hardester mentioned an appeal by Chestnut Hill RCO that was upheld by Commonwealth Court, which stated that the ZBA had abused its discretion in approving the variance, as hardship had not been established.

VI. FEEDBACK REQUESTED

A. NEW BUSINESS

The subject of Gerrymandering was raised as a subject for PCC to take up. Decision was made to bring this up at the next PCC meeting.

Next meeting May 8th.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary