

## **Cross Town Coalition Meeting May 16, 2016**

**Location:** 1600 Market Street, Suite 2500

**Called to Order:** 6:10 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 8:00 p.m.

**Attending** Matt Skolnick, Bella Vista Neighbors Assn; Joanne Kundrat, Callowhill N A; Steve Huntington, Jeff Braff, Charles Goodwin, Center City RA; Meg Greenfield, East Falls; Gordon Stein, East Kensington; Dominic Falso, East Passyunk; Ian Wilson Fishtown N A; Lauren Hansen Flascher, Garden Court, Ed Panek, Andy Toy Logan Square NA; Barbara Capozzi, Packer Park; Ilene Wilder, Passyunk Square; Jeff Hornstein, Queen Village NA; Lorna Katz Soc Hill; Barry Grossbach, Spruce Hill; Patricia Forcina, Jessica Gould, West Passyunk; Jacob Bijl, Woodland Terrace. Joe Schiavo Zoning and Land Use Chair; Brain Collins Sec'y (BVNA). Rob Kettell

### **I. Housekeeping**

The Board first made some brief introductions for all members.

#### a. Quorum Count

The Board held a quorum count and concluded that there was a quorum.

#### b. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, March 21, 2016, E. Panek (LSNA) moved to approve the minutes and I. Wilder (Passyunk Square) seconded. The motion passed, minutes approved.

#### c. Finance Report

PCC Treasurer, E. Panek, gave an update of the finances. The Coalition is solvent. There is currently about \$2500 in the account, expecting \$480 reimbursement from Goldenberg. Current on all bills. In handout packet, on pages 4-8 there is a form we need to complete for the Bureau of Charitable Organizations. The major aspect we need help with is verifying the list of delegates. Due about the middle of June. Please let S. Huntington (Chair, PCC) know if there are any changes or corrections.

#### d. Next meeting

The next meeting will be our annual meeting, taking place on June 8 at 2500 Market Street. PCC needs to elect officers. Please send any nominations to PCC Secretary Brian Collins, [PJBrian10@gmail.com](mailto:PJBrian10@gmail.com).

PCC will vote on a bylaws revision at the next meeting. The revisions are on page 14 of the pink handout packet. There was a suggestion to include language that would explicitly allow self-nomination.

e. Sugar Tax Debate

On Monday 5/23 there will be a debate on the Sugar Tax. Announced that there is a signup with Event Brite.

Motion to approve the PCC incur the expense of hosting a wine and cheese reception after the Sugar Tax Debate by B. Capozzi (Packer Park), seconded by J Hornstein (QVNA), motion passed.

Chair S Huntington asked the Board to distribute the Sugar Tax Debate questionnaire to their memberships. The following associations had sent out questions – QVNA, Callowhill, Central Roxborough, Fishtown Neighbors, Woodland Terrace, Packer Park, and CCRA. As of the May 23 meeting the Coalition had received 65 responses on the questionnaire – 42 in favor of the tax, 23 against.

f. SLAPP Letter

Following up on PCC initiative to pass an anti-SLAPP law in Harrisburg. More associations are agreeing to send out a letter in favor of the anti-SLAPP legislation. Member associations encouraged to continue to support this effort. East Falls stated that they would send out later in the week following the meeting. Passyunk Square also indicated that they would send out a letter.

g. Crosstown Promotion

Continued to encourage member civics to add PCC logo to their websites if they do not already do so. On p. 26 of the handout there is a list of webpages and PCC mentions. It was noted that Passyunk Square has the PCC logo on its site.

## **II. Education Committee**

J. Hornstein (QVNA) gave an update on the activities of the Education Committee.

a. Summit of Friends of Neighborhood Schools Event -- Recap

The Education committee hosted a summit on Saturday April 2 from 9 am to 2 pm for friends of neighborhood schools groups. There were 120 community leaders from 35 schools. The night before the summit, William Penn Foundation was asking about when they could expect a grant application from PCC. A grant would do 3 things – determine how to support existing groups, determine how to organize new groups, and a research component to see if what PCC is doing is helping. The summit included workshops, “Friends Group 101,” a more advanced fundraising workshop, diversity initiatives.

b. Friends of Neighborhood Schools (FONE) Update

Positive feedback after the last summit meeting in a Survey Monkey. Explained difference between Friends group and PTA, Friends group is open to broader community than parents with children in the school.

c. Guest Debra Klehr from Education Law Center

Debra Klehr presented to the Board to update PCC on issues re: fair funding the litigation surrounding funding of Philadelphia public schools, and other underfunded districts, and to discuss the funding gap. Education Law Center is a statewide organization, focuses on the fairness of school funding. PA has the largest gap in the nation between the wealthiest and poorest schools in spending. Philadelphia gets cut disproportionately when there are cuts. In the new budget there is a \$200 million increase in funding based on a formula that included factors such as poverty, rural v. urban, etc. Asking in 16-17 budget to increase the number of dollars distributed through that formula. Asking for \$400 million to achieve adequacy in funding.

Status of litigation – sued for failure to fund, waiting on scheduling oral argument before the state Supreme Court.

**III. Zoning and Land Use Committee**

Joe Schiavo, Chair, gave an update for the activities of the Committee.

a. Endorsement of Civic Inclusion Memo

Approved since last meeting by votes of Callowhill, CCRA, Central Rox, LSNA, South Broad, Spruce Hill, QVNA, Wash West, West Powelton, Woodland Terrace. West Passyunk abstains. Memo now endorsed by a majority of civics and can disseminate.

b. Update on memo to improve ZBA procedures

The Zoning Committee has made recommendations to improve ZBA procedures. The Committee wants to include the BIA and Development Workshop. Held for the new administration. Pushing to hear Planning Commission testimony at the beginning of a hearing not at the end. Positive feedback from the ZBA. Less movement with the Director of Planning and Development. Still trying to advance this issue.

c. Update on RCO Regulations

In the handout packet at pages 17 to 22 are the proposed regulations for RCOs as drafted, recommendations of the Planning Commission Staff in italics. Regular type are the existing regulations.

Hearing scheduled for June 6 at 1515 Arch, PCC will attempt to make a case on all regulations. J. Schiavo (Chair, Zoning) moved to empower the Committee to request a hearing to ratify the request he already made. A. Toy seconded. The request was made before Board approval given a timing deadline to request the hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Letter to PCPC proposing more opportunity for citizen input

On p. 23 of the packet you will see the letter. Asking for Agenda Items to be posted earlier to give civics and other organizations a chance to give input, change other procedures to increase input. Asking for the draft agenda to be posted 2 weeks before meeting with the staffer names so that we can reach out.

e. Survey on Civics Conducting Zoning Meetings

The following questions were posed with the following responses:

1. Who subjects Zoning issues to a vote of the audience at general meetings and it determines RCO action?

Fishtown, Callowhill, E. Kensington.

2. How many civics poll the audience to get “a sense of the room” but it does not directly drive RCO action?

QVNA, Callowhill, BVNA, Central Rox, E. Passyunk, W. Passyunk. CCRA very selectively does this on major issues.

3. How many groups keep Zoning vote tally private?

All civics.

4. Does any Zoning committee conduct its vote in front of the audience?

No.

**IV. Parking Committee (Bill West guest)**

a. Response from Parking Authority to PCC letter

P. 25 of handout has a letter to the Parking Authority that PCC sent, approved at previous meeting. Rick Dixon is now PCC’s contact person, he is working on getting a response to PCC’s queries.

b. Delaware Valley Smart Growth Meeting – Professor Shoup

On May 5, 2016 the Parking Committee attended a meeting with Donald Shoup, a major voice in parking reform. Discussed how to sell parking reform politically, e.g. “Parking Benefit Districts”, where a certain amount of parking revenue is funneled back into the community for improvement projects. Developed some contacts at Penn, might be able to get some help there.

**V. Government Relations Committee**

Looking for an issue to take up, on particularly sensitive issue for CCRA is lax L&I enforcement.

**VI. Best Practices**

a. Guest Rob Kettel

R. Kettel worked on zoning from 2008-2012 and agreed to help PCC work on best practices, try to come up with ideas on how PCC can help individual civics.

b. Summit of Best Practices for Zoning, RCO Management

Chance to compare notes on what other civics are doing. R. Kettel has downloaded all of the member bylaws, compiling them, and hoping to draw some comparisons.

Also, looking at potential cost savings by buying group insurance, etc. CCRA saved money by shopping for policies now using Dash & Love.

**VII. Guest – Christine Knapp – Director of Sustainability**

Guest speaker – Christine Knapp spoke to the Board about green initiatives and other sustainability projects. Wants to hear from PCC and its members, email:

Christine.knapp@phila.gov. The plan for sustainability from the City is about to expire, looking to develop a new plan with input from different organizations. Some issues raised: renewable energy markets (apparently driven by state level policy); leasing of solar panels; commercial recycling programs (such as for office buildings); rise in the City government's energy use (mostly has to do with weather and the City has taken control of more facilities).