

**PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION**

**Minutes of Meeting on JUNE 8, 2016**

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

**Called to Order:** 6:03 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 7:50 p.m.

**Attending** Eugene Desyatnik, Michelle Atherton, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn**; Leah Strenger, **Callowhill N A**; Celeste Hardester, Lynda Payne, Jim Petkovits, **Central Roxborough CA**; Steve Huntington – PCC Chair, **Center City RA**; Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk CA**; Meg Greenfield, **East Fall CAs**; Sam Little, Ed Panek, Andy Toy, **Logan Square NA**; Miguel Garcos, Paul Knese, **Newbold Neighbors A**; Matt Ruben, **Northern Liberties NA**; Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park**; Ilene Wilder, **Passyunk Square**; Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA**; Lorna Katz, **Society Hill CA**; Peter Zutter, **S. Broad Street NA**; Monica Calkins, **Spruce Hill CA**; Judy Applebaum, **Washington Square West**; Patricia Forcina, **West Passyunk N**; Lucia Esther, Chuck Bode, W. **Powelton/Saunders Park**; Joe Schiavo, Zoning and Land Use Chair;

**Not represented:** East Kensington NA, Fishtown Neighbors A.; Garden Court CA; Hawthorne Empowerment; Overbrook Farms; Woodland Terrace Homeowners

**I. HOUSEKEEPING**

- a. Quorum Count - PCC Chair S. Huntington confirmed Quorum count

S. Huntington recommended rearrangement of agenda to allow presentation of Agenda Item VII. B. – BEST PRACTICES - Dash & Love insurance presentation. He stated that Center City RA uses this broker and has saved \$1888 on their Directors & Officers insurance.

**VII. BEST PRACTICES**

- a. Dash & Love insurance presentation by Broker Dennis Yost

The 4-generation family-owned firm is full-service, based in Bala Cynwyd, and specializes in Not-for-Profits. The carrier used for CCRA was Philadelphia Insurance (rated A++), which has agreed to “bulk purchasing power” for members of PCC.

Points covered include their observation that existing D&O policies of association vary all over the place, and that the civics Bylaws will dictate who is actually covered. Policies would automatically include Event coverage (w/ liquor) if scheduled, and Employment Practices Liability, which has application even when the association has no direct employees. Quotes can be provided mid-term on request. Contact Dennis Yost at [dennis.yost@dashlove.com](mailto:dennis.yost@dashlove.com) - 610-667-2244.

**I. HOUSEKEEPING (cont)**

- b. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, May 16, 2016, I. Wilder (Passyunk Square) moved to approve the minutes and E. Panek (LSNA) seconded. The motion passed, minutes approved.

c. Report on Sugar Tax Debate 5/23

Chair S. Huntington reported that the PCC hosted debate was held at the United Fund Headquarters on May 23. There were 47 attendees, with Sam Katz speaking for the Tax, and Lauren Vidas, a lobbyist for the Philadelphia Beverage Association spoke against. Overall the debate was unlikely to have changed people's positions. As promised, after the debate, PCC bought drinks for attendees, at a cost of \$152.

d. Finance Report

Chair S. Huntington briefly reported that the Coalition is essentially where it was this time last year, with a net income of -\$2500.

e. Dues

Payments remain due from most PCC Members.

f. Homework

1. Sugar Tax Survey of PCC member constituencies – a letter was sent to Council President Darrell Clarke summarizing the results of the surveys. Data was submitted by zip code
2. SLAPP letter – most members have sent letters to their State representatives. J. Hornstein (QVNA) announced that a lobbyist informed him that the Bill is dead in Harrisburg. This lobbyist wants to work with us to get it going again. S. Huntington is going to try to find out more.
3. PCC logo – encouragement was made to all members to put the logo or link on their website. Of 24 Members, approximately 10 have done this already. Central Roxborough and Spruce Hill confirmed that they have, despite being omitted from the list.

## II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations were made by Judy Applebaum (Wash West) and seconded by Barb Capozzi (Packer Park) for the following positions:

Chair - Steve Huntington Center City Res Assn

Vice Chair Jeff Hornstein Queen Village

Vice Chair - Ilene Wilder , Passyunk Square

Treasurer - Ed Panek, Logan Square

Secretary – Celeste Hardester, Central Roxborough Civic Association

The vote unanimously approved these candidates.

## III. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Chair S. Huntington presented the amended language for Article V C. Election. Ed Panek (LSNA) moved to approve, Jeff Hornstein (QVNA) seconded, and the motion was approved.

#### **IV. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

J. Hornstein provided an update on Friends of Neighborhood Schools- FONE, reporting that they now have 35-36 groups, and that their goal is to make this a City-wide initiative. They reviewed a grant application with William Penn Foundation that would be an \$80K Planning Grant. William Penn wants FONE to work with other support sources, too. Temple has agreed to pay for half an intern. (Academics see FONE as an interesting development.) If received, the WP grant is large enough that it would need to go to an entity with a “back office” to help manage the accountability. FONE is speaking with Urban Affairs Coalition. <http://www.uac.org/about-us>

Other groups looking at joining FONE are Action United and an Indonesian association (Secretary note: Internet shows there are several in Philadelphia, not sure which one.)

It was suggested that questions, observations about schools in need, etc, can be posted on the FONE FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/philaFONE/>

#### **V. Zoning and Land Use Committee**

J. Schiavo, Chair, and S. Huntington gave an update for the activities of the Committee.

##### **a. PCPC RCO Regulations**

S. Huntington said that a few members of PCC (S. Huntington, Michelle Atherton , Judy Applebaum) met with Council people Oh, Gym, Squilla on June 3 to seek their support/participation in addressing the PCC-requested amendments to the regulations. (Out of 15 original suggestions, 5 were adopted by PCPC, leaving 10 not addressed.) Squilla was receptive and requested prioritization of amendments. Gym was unfamiliar but interested. Oh seemed more interested in discussing his interests rather than ours. The plan is to continue to make the rounds with council people.

At the PCPC public-comment hearing on June 6, S. Huntington and L. Katz presented the 10 suggestions that we would like the PCPC to adopt (they informed us that they just adopted one of the 10 – the 45-day notification trigger date). There will be a Q & A opportunity at the PCPC monthly board meeting on June 14.

In a letter sent to Gary Jastrzab (PCPC ED) in May, we requested their attention to inadequate notice regarding posting of PCPC meetings. Jastrzab responded in a letter of May 25, suggesting that we pay closer attention to City Council bills as they are introduced. S. Huntington and J. Schiavo will respond to this letter.

##### **b. Bill 160525 – (Councilman O’Neill’s subdivision bill)**

Joe Schiavo clarified that this bill applies only in case of subdivision that applies to the plating of streets, which is an expense of the City. It does not apply in any other circumstance. It would require Council vote but not PCPC approval, and it is lined up for approval on June 9. A discussion with Matt Ruben and J. Schiavo pointed out that Council would be making decisions without the input of Planning, and that this could result in the Commission having veto power that would be against Council’s own interest. Andy Toy asked if the Code is OK as it is. J. Schiavo said yes. M. Ruben made a motion to draft a letter

in opposition to the Bill as presently phrased. J. Hornstein seconded. The Bill will have a first reading on June 7. J. Schiavo and Chuck Bode agreed to meet on June 7 to develop a plan.

c. Green Grocer Bill

This issue was brought about by the an application for a variance application in QVNA/Bella Vista that was based on a zoning bonus granted to fresh food markets in “food deserts.” While it was agreed that PCC role is not to discuss specific appeals, J. Schaivo suggested we review the “Use-Related Bonuses” as allowed by Code, which require only a 7-year use fulfillment. The Zoning Committee will look at this, and whether Use Variances provide an adequate enforcement method for businesses that could leave after 7 years, resulting in an oversized structure with no community benefit outcome.

Andy Toy stated that, having served on the Zoning Commission, he really supported affordable housing height bonuses, which are based on 15-year use. (An example of attempting to use this bonus was cited in a 200-apartment Ron Kaplan project on Water Street, which is in the Central Delaware Overlay. It recently became known that they are trying to maintain the height but get out of the Mixed Income use. They have rejected the alternate option of paying into the Housing Trust Fund as being too expensive. They requested swapping other bonuses for this bonus. L&I informed them they will have to re-apply for the entire project. Now a new Zoning permit is being reviewed., but with the new FEMA flood-plane standards, the project may not qualify. (The original project would have been by-right.)

Please provide further thoughts on this subject directly to J. Schiavo.

**VI. Parking Committee**

Bill West is going to propose to PPA that a pilot project be conducted in a limited area for a limited time to evaluate variable parking pricing at meters. (A Professor Shupes developed an approach to parking where rates increase until 15% vacancy is established as an indication of price tolerance. This has been done on the West Coast, and the extra income earned goes to neighborhoods. S. Huntington met with Streets Dept, and Mike Carroll is interested in this project. (It was mentioned that Penn professor Eric Burrell has 40 graduate students who may be available for this project.)

**VII. Best Practices**

a. Member Spreadsheet

If you have changes, send them to C. Hardester ([achardester@verizon.net](mailto:achardester@verizon.net))

b. Other ideas

- If you ideas of ways to save based on group purchasing, send them to Rob Kettell [kettell@aol.com](mailto:kettell@aol.com)

- S. Huntington suggested it would be good to share newsletter intellectual wealth, and that he would like Travis to collect items that are sent to each association each week.

- J. Hornstein mentioned the idea of doing workshops for civics, be they members or not, about how to function as a civic, and details of RCO practices, as needed

- Google phone numbers can be obtained for us as public phone numbers to be place on civics' websites, as an alternative to personal/cell numbers

## **VIII. New Business**

### a. Signs

Mary Tracy spoke about digital signs:

- SEPTA digital sign has been approved for Broad and Lombard; is this what we as a city want. People come to Philadelphia for authenticity. Streets Dept is only involved with positioning of sign. Why wasn't CCRA brought in on this. Is this something PCC wants to address?
- A digital sign has been approved by Council at Pennypack Park – Parks & Rec didn't know about this. Mike deBenardinis didn't know. Friends of Pennypack didn't know. Holmesburg has asked for a continuance. This was a Henon bill.

### b. Council Practices

- Council passed amended bills last week that public hasn't seen (and therefor couldn't comment on). This points back to TAB A of PCC proposals of Better Council Practices.
- C. Bode cited other bills showing up in Council without names, just number: Bill 160115

### c. Planning Commission

- L. Payne stated PCPC is proposing regulations that would grant exemptions to Steep Slope protection as stated in Zoning Code. M. Ruben asked for more information to form an opinion about responding to this.

## **I. HOUSEKEEPING (cont)**

### g. Next Meeting

This was not fully discussed but likely will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary.

