

**PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION DELEGATES ASSEMBLY September 16, 2017**

**Notes of presentations and breakout session recommendations**

**Location:** United Way 1709 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Ground Floor

**Called to Order:** 9:00 a.m.

**Adjourned:** 1:00 p.m.

**Attending: 24 Associations, represented by:** Brandy Bones, Eugene Desyatnik, Travis Seal, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn;** Joanne Kundrat, **Callowhill N A;** Victoria Bourret, John Schaeffer, **Cedar Park Neighbors;** Celeste Hardester, Don Simon, Margaret Ann Morris, **Central Roxborough CA;** Steve Huntington-, Bill West, Guy Aiman, Jeff Braff, Wade Albert, **Center City RA;** Bill Epstein, Meg Greenfield, **East Falls CA;** Miguel Garces, Sarah Stevenson, **East Point Breeze Neighbors;** Nic Esposito, **East Kensington NA,** Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk Civic Assn;** Leon Malloy, **East Passyunk Crossing;** Joseph Kain, Ian Wilson, **Fishtown Neighbors Assn;** Jamie Gauthier, Maurice Jones, **Garden Court CA;** Drew Murray, Andy Toy, **Logan Square NA;** Stephanie Kindt, **Overbrook Farms;** Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park;** Ilene Wilder, Sarah Anton, **Passyunk Square CA;** Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA;** Lorna Katz, **Society Hill CA;** Peter Zutter, **S. Broad Street NA;** Woody Rosenbach, **Society Hill NA;** Nicole Koedyker, Elvira Mendez, **SOSNA- South of South NA;** Eric Santoro, **Spruce Hill CA;** Chuck Bode, Lucia Esther, **W. Powelton/Saunders Park;** Judy Applebaum, **Washington Square West .**

**8 Non- PCC RCO's also present:** Randy Smith, **Centennial Parkside CDC;** Larissa Mogano, **Cobbs Creek;** Geni Klein, **Fairmount Civic Association;** Patricia Than, Rebecca Wanner, **Lower Moyamensing;** De'Wayne Drummond, **Mantua Civic Association;** Donna Kennedy, **Ridge Park Civic;** Florence Mickens, **Stanton Community Partners;** Trish Callahan Murzyn, **West Mt. Airy Neighbors;**

**Also present:** Rob Kettell, ex officio; Eric Bodzin, Councilwoman Quinônes-Sanchez; Charlotte Castle, Vision Zero; Keith Forsyth, Fair Districts PA; (Note – Andy Toy was present representing **Logan Square NA and SEAMAAC – Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition**)

**Not represented: 8 Members, including,** Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition, Northern Liberties NA; Walnut Hill; West Passyunk NA;

**I. WELCOME – PCC Chair Jeff Hornstein**

Jeff laid out the welcomed 47 attendees and 3 guest speakers, laid out the agenda of reviewing potential Hot Issues to be addressed by PCC in the coming year, and welcomed speakers for the Hot Issues Panel:

**II. HOT ISSUES PANEL**

A. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Eric Bodzin, Esq. Legislative Aide for Councilwoman Quinônes-Sanchez;

Eric spoke to several points that have led to the draft legislation to address Philadelphia's need for an increase in the amount of available affordable housing.

- As defined by HUD, any household spending more than 30% of income on housing costs needs affordable housing. In Philadelphia, 70% of households are cost-burdened.

- There is a deficit of 69,000 available homes for people falling in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 annual income bracket, who fall short at least \$500/month of needed income to cover housing costs.
- The question arises – is this also an income problem in addition to an Affordable Housing problem
- Federal housing funds are decreasing. We need to develop programs with developers to address this problem.
- Mixed Income Housing Programs – how would this model work in different sections of the City? NYC, Baltimore, Chicago have Inclusionary Housing programs. We are asking developers building 10 or more units to set aside 1 unit for Affordable Housing for every 9 units build.
- Tools to do this include:
  - o Zoning Based tools: allowing variances on density, height, parking
  - o Land Bank – this applies to both public land and the acquisition of large underused structures
  - o Traditional based subsidies – what can we do to encourage Affordable Housing

B. VISION ZERO – Charlotte Castle, OTIS (Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems)

Charlotte said that Vision Zero is a plan adopted by the City of Philadelphia to address fatalities caused by traffic accidents. The implementing agencies are the Streets Department and Water Department.

- Statistics show in recent years in Philadelphia, on average 100 people are killed annually in traffic accidents. Of these, 4 are children.
- Vision Zero is a program that was started in Sweden. It is designed around the fundamental concept that human error is unpredictable but that SPEED is the fundamental predictor in crash survival.
- Philadelphia is one of 26 cities that have adopted Vision 0. It has a death rate higher than that in NYC and LA. The mayor has established a goal for Vision Zero to get the City to 0 fatalities by year 2030.
- Part of the program is designed to design roads for people who are under 8 and over 80 years of age, as these two categories are the least likely to survive crashes.
- Lower income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by crashes; the majority of accidents occur on just 12% of the streets
- Techniques to address high-accident areas include traffic-calming techniques such as speed cushions, and automated enforcement systems, where cameras trigger tickets being issued. Other cities have seen tickets go down overall with the use of this technique. A Vision Zero goal is to have 0 tickets issued on Roosevelt Blvd.
- HEAT Map goes live on September 28<sup>th</sup> – it will show accident data

C. FAIR DISTRICTS PA: GERRYMANDERING – Keith Forsyth, Philadelphia Coordinator and Counties Coordinator for FD-PA

- FD-PA is an all-volunteer organization, established 1 ½ years ago, started by the League of Women Voters. Its goal is to end political gerrymandering. The US Constitution gives states the rights to determine boundaries of Congressional districts. In PA, our process goes back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Following the 2010 census, a combination of Big Money and Big Data technology opened the door to a pronounced change in the approach to gerrymandering. The strategy that was employed drew district lines in ways that favored one party over the other, distorting the overall percentages of the party affiliations of registered voters. District lines were drawn so that regions that were predominantly one party were packed with voters of that party. Regions that were less dominant were strategically drawn to assure party dominance. The result is that, in PA where the votes split fairly evenly between Republicans and Democrats, 72% of state representative seats have gone to Republicans. District 7 is a famous district across the country, drawn in a way that serves no practical purpose other than controlling vote outcomes.
- Both political parties are guilty of supporting gerrymandering, the Republicans because it guarantees their majority, and Democrats because it guarantees lack of competition in those districts.
- The states that have been most significantly affected by gerrymandering are Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.
- Some states have been successful at implementing changes to counter gerrymandering, notably Maryland, Illinois, and California (which has the ability to call for Referendums, not available under the PA constitution.)
- Fair Districts PA wants to create a Citizens Redistricting Commission. To do this, the PA Constitution needs to be amended. Legislation has been drafted to achieve this change. For an Amendment to be made, it needs to pass both the PA House and PA Senate by July 2018 and again by July 2020. It then needs to go on the Ballot in the November 2020 election. It would then be in force in time for the Redistricting that would be done in April 2021 as a result of the 2020 census.
- The current focus is the passage of SB-22 and HB-722 in July 2018. There are four Senators representing parts of Philadelphia who have not yet agreed to co-sponsor SB-22: Tartaglione, Street, Sabatina, and Hughes.
- FD-PA has 1250 members in Philadelphia, covering 7 neighborhoods. Representatives from this volunteer base would like the opportunity to present this issue to individual civic associations. If politicians sense that more voters are paying attention to this, they will be more inclined to co-sponsor. Right now, they are not.

D. PARKING – Steve Huntington

- Historically, parking has been a reactive issue in Philadelphia, with a lot of adherence to keeping things the way they are (e.g. parking on the median on S. Broad.)
- There are creative solutions that other cities have adopted:

- Demand-based Parking, where payment varies based on where and when the parking is needed. This flexibility can achieve a targeted rate of vacant parking spaces at any time, typically the goal for unfilled spaces is 15%.
- Increase price of Permit Parking, using the increased parking revenues to fund programs in the immediate community
- Facing City Council this Fall is Council President Clarke's Bill 170672, which would double the number of required parking spaces for multi-tenant housing (from 3-6). A blue ribbon citizen-based taskforce, the Zoning Code Commission, spent several years determining the requirements outlined in the current Zoning Code. Have conditions changed in the past five years that merit this change in the Code?
- Mandated parking provides with units increases the cost of the unit, making it less affordable, and raising the issue of garage fronts at the curb.
- Jeff Young, of Council President Clarke's office, has said a Task Force is underway to address parking
- Electric Vehicle Plug-In – the PCC requested a moratorium on this issue. It is in Council. Councilman-At-Large David Oh's office has created a task force – it currently has three EV owners but no civic representatives

E. ZERO WASTE – Nic Esposito (Litter Director for the City)

Philadelphia has an action plan that came out in August – [CleanPHL.org](http://CleanPHL.org). (See GRID magazine this month) ; 31 recommendations with an ultimate goal of phasing out use of landfills by 2035, to have city-wide composting.

F. OTHER ISSUES – what do people want to consider addressing in the coming year

- Alternative Forms of Transportation – Trish Callahan of WMAN
- Preservation – Eric Santoro, Spruce Hill
- Jobs – Jeff Hornstein is working on this issue in his day job
- Land Bank – take on abandoned properties in addition to abandoned land – this is very needed in Parkside

### III. QUESTIONS FOR ANY OF THE SPEAKERS

Affordable Housing: Brandy Bones – How will Affordable Housing be enforced? Will resales be monitored or restricted?

Steve Huntington said the BIA is looking for options for different kinds of development. The Workforce Housing Program has a resale restriction that lasts only 15 years.

Guy Aiman – CCRA - said that Philadelphia is considered the most affordable city in the northeast. What are the ways to look at this?

Andy Toy – CCRA – said we civics have some control over what happens in our neighborhoods. Compromise has been an incentivized approach but there should probably be a mandatory approach.

#### IV. BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS

Breakout groups met separately for one hour to discuss: Affordable Housing; Parking; Vision Zero; Zero Waste; Preservation; Fair Districts;

- A. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Miguel Garces, East Point Breeze
  - Overall goal is to address this issue In all neighborhoods
  - Set up a Crosstown taskforce to address this issue and to educate Crosstown members about the topic
  - Follow/monitor the task force set up by Councilwoman Quinônes-Sanchez and be ready to respond (not currently ready to take a position on the Bill)
  - Recommends that PCC form a Task Force to:
    - o Define Affordable Housing
    - o What are our values?
    - o Find a way for the City to promote mixed income neighborhoods
    - o Educate – how do options around affordable housing work?
  
- B. PARKING – Joe Kain, Fishtown
  - First, we find with this issue that it is easy to get into the weeds
  - It is not productive to look at this issue in a vacuum
  - We are unanimous in recommending that the PCC should take this on as a broader issue of Parking and Transportation, involving PPA, SEPTA, meters, enforcement; Have demonstration projects that address different issues
  - Task force should:
    - o Look at bigger picture – try not to get down in weeds
    - o Not impose from outside – come up with a toolbox for RCO’s – top down/ bottom up
    - o Look at City-wide policies
  
- C. VISION ZERO – Maurice Jones, Garden Court
  - Decentralization issue, needing a local approach, local input
  - Education is needed
  - Who is responsible on City vs State streets?
  - PCC should establish a narrative about safety
  - Poll our individual groups about traffic accidents in their area
  
- D. ZERO WASTE – Nic Esposito
  - One good thing is that there is no PRO-TRASH lobby
  - We recommend that a small committee be formed to liaison with the City to interact on
    - o Ideashares that happen across the RCO’s – STEAL THIS IDEA (e.g. Fishtown Fishheads, Northern Liberties bulk buy of lidded recycling bins
    - o Make sure up-to date info gets to members and that PCC knows about potential bills
    - o Surveys – what do communities need?

E. PRESERVATION – Eric Santoro

There is a proliferation of building being replaced by box buildings, taking away character, adding density. We are a World Heritage City. This connects to the Affordable Housing issue

- The Mayor has a Preservation Task Force – we should have a seat on that
- Neighborhoods need to have a voice in the City when City Council and the Preservation Alliance are speaking
- What guidelines are appropriate
- We can do coalition-building on this issue - so many groups are working on this problem house-by-house. We can conduct seminars.

F. FAIR DISTRICTS/GERRYMANDERING – Celeste Hardester

- Recommend that the PCC Board suggest members invite Fair Districts PA to present at their general meetings
- Ask that the PCC Board consider endorsing Fair Districts PA
- Ask the PCC Board to be involved with encouraging members to find ways to meet with their state senator

**V. DECISIONS FOR GOING FORWARD IN 2017-18**

Jeff Hornstein asked for agreement to make the following decisions:

A. TASK FORCES

- Affordable Housing
- Parking/Transportation (working with Vision Zero)
- Sustainability/Zero Waste

B. For Discussion at Board Meeting: Fair Districts PA – Due to a variety of concerns regarding the appropriateness of PCC taking up this issue, it was tabled for further discussion. Members can contact us for additional information on Fair Districts PA and to arrange for presentations at their own meetings.

C. The next meeting will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

D. Don't forget to attend the session on ZONING CODE AFTER FIVE YEARS at the Pipeline, on Sept. 27. Fishtown's Matt Karp will be on the panel.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary