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MINUTES PHILADELPHIA COALITION MONDAY NOVEMBER 30,2020

VENUE: ZOOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT De'WAYNE DRUMMOND AT 7:32 PM

Presentation by guest speaker Council Member at Large Katherine Gilmore Richardson

- Covid Update : to date 1976 fatalities in the city.
- City Safer at Home Initiative
- Priorities : Grant Program for small businesses impacted by pandemic.
- RCO Zoning Initiative
- Environmental Issues
- Government transparency and honesty

Recommended that Crosstown contact Wynnefield Residents Association regarding membership in coalition

Presentation by guest speaker Council Member at Large Allan Domb

- Covid Fallout : Serious shortfall in city revenues , much of it due to loss of commuter workers
- Targeted assistance needed for restaurants and gyms
- Outdoor Seating and Wage Tax Bills
- Home Owner Protection Bill

Believes it is essential that city schools emphasize the teaching of Financial Literacy; Technical Skills: and Entrepreneurship.

OLD BUSINESS: Approval of minutes of September 29,2020

Treasurer's Report by Eugene Desyatnik:

- Dues notices being sent out
- Tax Form 990 [Non Profits] for 2019 sent out. Form for 2020 being prepared

Report by Blaise Tobias Zoning Committee on harmful effects of OPA removal of ability to search property ownership by name on website

Motion made by Steve Huntington to request the various Crosstown delegates to ask their respective organizations to consider the following resolution and report the results back to Crosstown secretary Jim Petkovits :”Our civic group requests that the ”Search by name”function be restored to the City’s website .Its elimination prevents citizens from being able to assess the civic profiles of landowners from public records-I. E.whether particular owners are compliant with regulations pertaining to zoning, L and I, taxation, liquor licensing etc””. Motion was approved.

A second motion was authorized by De'Wayne Drummond to send the following letter letter to OPA on behalf of Crosstown: This motion was approved.

The Office of Property Assessment
Suite 301
601 Walnut Street
Philadelphia ,PA 19106:

At the November 30 meeting of our Delegates, the Crosstown Coalition voted to send this inquiry as to why the search by name function was eliminated by the OPA website. This is a change that prevents our members and their constituents from being able to easily assess the civic profiles of landowners from public records - I .e. Whether particular landowners are

compliant with regulations pertaining to zoning, licences and inspection, taxation, liquor licensing ,etc.

The OPA website states this function was deleted “due to privacy concerns”. This statement raises the question as to whether a decision was made to place the interests of the owners listed within these public records above the interest of the citizens/taxpayers who have funded the assembly of this data..

Please let us know your thoughts on the rationale for this decision withi the next two weeks.If this time frame is not workable please suggest an alternate date.

Murray Spenser Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee offered to assist in the regeneration of the Crosstown Affordable Housing Committee.

NEW BUSINESS; CROSSTOWN PRIORITIES FOR 2021. Delegates divided into five breakout groups .

GROUP# 1[Paul Rossi] Priorities:

- City initiatives to assist Coved impacted businesses
- Removal/Mitigation of government caused disincentives to businesses
- Resurrect Crosstown Affordable Housing Committee.
- Police Reform

Group #2[Drew Murray] Priorities:

- Accessory Dwelling Units AKA Mother-Law Units
- Expanding Crosstown Membership
- ZBA Procedures
- Improved City Services
- Historic Preservation

Group #3[Wade Albert]Priorities

- Police reform in partnership with the communities most affected
- Zoning and Land Use Procedures
- Recovery from the effects of Covid 19

Group #4 [Cassie Lackasiewicz] Priorities:

- Police Reform
- Covid 19 recovery
- City Services
- Education and Mental Health

Group #5 [Eugene Desyatnik} Priorities:

- Land Use and Demolition Procedures
- Policeb to Reform
- Maximizing Crosstown networking

Steve Huntington stated that he was ready and willing to serve with any Crosstown initiative related to Police Reform.

Murray Spenser Indicated his willingness with any Crosstown initiative related to Affordable Housing

Miguel Garces requested that Crosstown follow up with Point Breeze Civic Association regarding joining the Coalition.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM

Minutes recorded by Jim Petkovits Secretary Crosstown Coalition on November 30,2020.