



PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION

Next Meeting - Monday, June 23, 2014 Location TBA

Minutes of the First Board Meeting
 Monday, May 12, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
 1600 Market Street, 25th Floor
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Attending:

Bella Vista NA	Jon Geeting Michelle Atherton
Center City RA	Steve Huntington Jeff Braff Walter Spencer
Central Roxborough CA	Linda Payne
Fishtown NA	Jill Betters Kate Micklow Harwan
Logan Square NA	Sam Little Ed Panek
Northern Liberties NA	Matt Ruben
Packer Park CA	Barbara Capozzi
Passyunk Square CA	Ilene Wilder Susan Patrone
Pennsport CA	Rene Goodwin
Queen Village NA	Jeff Hornstein
Society Hill CA	Dan Horowitz Mary Tracy
South Broad Street NA	Peter Zutter
South of South NA	Lauren Vidas
West Powelton CCC	Lucia Esther
Woodland Terrace CA	Magali Larson
	Margaret Kalalian

AGENDA

Jeff Hornstein called the meeting to order. Delegates were introduced with 15 civics represented.

I. Summit Recap

Jeff Hornstein provided a Summit recap. There were 17 civics represented. The Summit achieved a high level of consensus regarding Committees that PCC should be forming around three key issue areas: Schools/Public Education; Zoning and Land Use; City Tax and Finance. Standing Committees: Membership; Best Practices; Communications and Finance.

Steve Huntington distributed a list of associations that have appointed delegates and requested additional delegate names added to the list.

Sam Little stated the Summit was very well done.

II. Ratification of By-Laws

Steve Huntington reported the only significant change in the draft Bylaws submitted for the April 26 Summit was regarding the fiscal year.

Steve H. moved that the Bylaws be introduced, motion was seconded. Discussion on motion: Sam Little suggested amending the Bylaws to enable the Board to vote on decisions when time is short by email vote. Proposed amendment to Article 4, Paragraph 8: "When time requires faster action for an effective Board decision, such meetings or voting can be conducted electronically."

Ed Panek said it was important to have the provision in the Bylaws now rather than later. He regretted not having the provision originally in the Logan Square NA Bylaws. He found it was useful for time-sensitive matters that didn't need to go before the board at regular meetings. Supports amendment for email voting to Bylaws.

Mary Tracy asked how much notice would be required for an electronic vote on an emergency matter.

Jeff H.: The question is whether to include e-voting in the Bylaws or say the Board shall ratify a policy on this question as soon as possible.

Ed P.: Difficult to quantify how many days needed to provide notice for electronic voting and does not advocate specific number of days. Bylaws should provide for matters that may come up at the last minute.

Steve H.: Article 4, E, states at least ten days notice of meetings is required but where unanticipated issues require shorter notices of an emergency meeting the notification can be moved up. Steve noted that Sam L. was not addressing the issue of notice but a question of voting format – electronic voting to be used in an emergency which in turn raises a second subsidiary issue – how much heads up for an “emergency vote”.

Sam L.: Would be the Executive Committee’s choice and which method of operation would work. If rushed too much, would not get a quorum.

Matt Ruben: CDAG doesn’t need official votes that often, but Northern Liberties does online Board polls all the time. NLNA has a bylaws provision that pre-existed frequent use of emails that provides for emergency meetings. They interpret that to vote via email, but have to officially ratify on-line board polls at the next board meeting. Matt proposed including a statement that says: “The Executive Committee shall craft a policy allowing for online voting outside of meetings. Such policy shall take effect when ratified by three-quarters of the membership.” The statement will be in the Bylaws saying there has to be a policy allowing for email vote.

Steve H.: Matt has a solution such that we can vote tonight so that we can get the Bylaws done and then will work with the Executive Committee to reach the goal that Sam and Ed suggested. Accepted the amendment in the original motion. Seconded by Dan Horowitz.

Jeff H.: Full statement will be in Article 4, Paragraph E.

Vote taken on amendment; approved by acclimation.

III. Election of Officers

Jill Betters reviewed the nominations:

Chair:

Steve Huntington
Jeff Hornstein

Vice Chairs (2):

Jeff Hornstein

Jill Betters
Matt Ruben
Walter Spencer (declined)

Secretary:
Margaret Kalalian

Treasurer:
Pat Bullard (Declined)
Steve Huntington

Terms of officers are for one-year with option to run for two additional terms. Can run for fourth term if 75 percent of members agree.

Rene Goodwin: Asked for specifications for officers.

Jill B.: Reviewed the duties of officers from the Bylaws.

Rene G.: Asked if PCC had 501(c)(3) status. Steve H. responded PCC is qualified, but has not applied. Believes members would seek 501(c)(3), but haven't determined yet.

Each candidate for contested positions discussed his/her background and qualifications with Crosstown Coalition, and participation since organization was founded in 2008 regarding previous issues of zoning code and AVI tax reform, and current SLAPP hearing.

Vote conducted by secret ballot with candidates not present in conference room.

Results:

Chair: Steve Huntington
Vice Chairs: Jill Betters; Jeff Hornstein
Secretary: Margaret Kalalian
Treasurer: Ed Panek

The next election will be June 2015. This is the first annual meeting. The CCP must meet at least four times a year.

IV. Progress On Anti SLAPP Legislation

A number of delegates testified at the Senate hearing conducted at the Philadelphia Bar Association. Steve suggested next step to improve the

language in the draft bill and solicit Republican support because the bill sponsors are all Democrats. He was informed that a bill with all Democratic sponsors is not a good prospect for passage.

Lauren Vidas: Asked if a House bill will be introduced or will Senate bill be passed to the House.

Jill B.: There is a House bill.

Lauren V.: Asked if anyone is in Rep. Taylor's district to approach him for support.

Jill B.: Said she can reach out to Bridesburg if they can work on issue because they have a relationship.

Magali Larson: Asked if Greenleaf was a co-sponsor.

Steve H.: Explained Greenleaf is the chair of the Judiciary Committee to which the bill was reported, but he is not a co-sponsor. The Judiciary Committee conducted the hearings conducted a couple of weeks ago.

Jeff H.: Did Greenleaf sound amenable to co-sponsorship?

Steve H.: His impression was Greenleaf thought this was a good piece of legislation.

Sam L.: Matt spoke excellently.

Magali L.: She thought that Greenleaf was not hostile, but he was worried about the legitimate suits that would be stalled by this legislation.

Sue Patrone: She wasn't at the hearing, but Lorna Katz said her impression was that Greenleaf was being devil's advocate, asking questions because he wanted more information.

Steve H.: When Matt spoke he put a great face on the bill and painted a description such that Greenleaf could recognize his suburban constituents being advantaged by this bill. Steve reviewed the issue with a First Amendment legal expert who told him that newspapers in California have embraced the anti-SLAPP legislation. Steve said there was some press testimony, but the *Inquirer* and *Daily News* did not attend. That's a consideration for PCC.

Jeff H.: We should consider reaching out to our counterparts in the suburbs.

Steve H.: Tony Mannino, Senator Farnese's aide, says the problem with the counties is that they don't have civic associations as we know them because the areas are so small. Instead of turning to your civic, you just turn to your board of commissioners.

Walter Spencer: That's true in a lot of them. In places like Lower Merion or Radnor, there are civics. Another possible way to get Republican attention is with Matt Wolf.

Lauren V.: Have to be very careful to go to Wolf before going to John Taylor.

Walt S.: Was thinking of using Wolf to go to John Taylor. He was on Friends of the Boyd, and if that hadn't gone well they would have been SLAPPED.

Jeff H.: We (Lauren V.) both have relationships with John Taylor.

Lauren V.: He went to law school with her parents and she knows him well. She will reach out to John Taylor.

Steve H.: Will send bill data to Lauren. We will look to Lauren as the point person to get the bill properly politically packaged. The other issue is the bill was poorly put together. It has to be substantially reworded. He wants to get a team of lawyers to work on it.

Lauren V.: Wants to reach out to Bridesburg and let them know she is going to talk to John Taylor.

Jill B.: She can reach out to Mary Ann and give her a heads up.

V. Committees

The three committees crowd sourced as the most popular via the exercise at the April 26 meeting were Schools, Zoning and Land Use, Taxes and City Finance

A. Schools Committee:

1. Volunteers

Jeff Hornstein

Lauren Vidas

Barbara Capozzi

Kate Micklow Harwan

Sue Patrone

Magali Larson

2. Schools Discussion

Steve H.: What could we do about schools?

Jeff H.: Propose we make a list of the three groups and then have the groups circle up.

Steve H.: Wanted to give the committee the flavor of the group before they huddle.

Lauren .: Schools group has to determine what policy it wants to present to the full board because it can mean so many things.

Ilene Wilder: A lot of topics were identified at the Summit for a starting point. There were really good themes as a starting point.

Steve H.: Can look at the last minutes that captured all the notations on the Post-It notes. CCRA is doing a survey regarding the questions presented by the extension of the sales tax to find out if their membership is on board with having that money used to fund the schools vs. one of original proposals to pay down the pension deficit.

Walt S.: We can share the results with the group. Best thing to do is have the committee circle off and CCRA will get the survey report to the board.

B. Zoning and Land Use Committee:

1. Volunteers

Peter Zutter
Dan Horowitz
Jon Geeting
Mary Tracy
Sam Little

Lucia Esther
Michelle Atherton
Linda Payne
Jared Klein
Ed Panek

Joe Schiavo

C. Taxes and City Finance Committee:

1. Volunteers

Lauren Vidas
Dan Horowitz
Jon Geeting
Sarah Anton

Ilene Wilder
Jeff Hornstein
Ed Panek

2. Discussion of Realty Tax Abatement Modification

Lauren Vidas: As a matter of full disclosure, she is working with the Development Workshop on this issue which is the tax abatement issue. Wilson Goode introduced a bill last year that would eliminate the school district portion of the tax abatement, which is about 55 percent of the abatement. The bill has had a couple of hearings but they're taking public comment on Wednesday. There is a study done by Jones Lang LaSalle that was commissioned by the City of Philadelphia pursuant to a City Council ordinance which concluded that but for the abatement we would have seen a 55 percent reduction in development since the abatement was introduced in the early 2000's.

She will recuse herself from this point forward, but wanted to make both the Crosstown Coalition and individual organizations aware that she knows her neighborhood would not have experienced the explosive growth if not for the abatement. She is trying to get an electronic copy of the study to send out. City Council is taking testimony on this and other budget bills on Wednesday.

D. Membership Committee:

Magali Larson	Jeff Hornstein
Barbara Capozzi	Sam Little

E. Best Practices Committee:

Lauren Vidas	Steve Huntington
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Best practices is sharing information among the civic organizations.

F. Finance Committee:

Ed Panek	Sarah Anton
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Ilene Wilder and Kate Harwan will ask their members for assistance.

G. Executive Committee

Steve H.: The Executive Committee per the bylaws is the officers who have the option to add two more members for a total of seven members.

H. Communications Committee:

Ilene Wilder	Jill Betters
Rene Goodwin	Dan Horowitz

Kate Micklow Harwan

Margaret K.: Magali wanted to indicate that although Steve said he would serve as chair for one year, that after the first term the group may ask him to continue to serve as chair.

VI. Next Meeting Monday June 23 6 pm Location TBA

Jill stated the committees should be up and running by the next meeting and have topics to review.

The Education Committee would have project recommendations; the SLAPP group will have made progress in revising the statute and strategizing a political game plan; and Zoning and Land Use should have some suggestions. It is expected that the Coalition will embrace what the committees suggest.

The meeting was adjourned.