

**PHILADELPHIA CROSSTOWN COALITION**

**Minutes of Meeting on May 8, 2017**

**Location:** 1608 Walnut Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

**Adjourned:** 8:15 p.m.

**Attending: 18 Associations, represented by:**

Matt Skolnik, Eugene Desyatnik, **Bella Vista Neighbors Assn**; Celeste Hardester, Jim Petkovits, Lynda Payne, **Central Roxborough CA**; Steve Huntington- PCC Chair, **Center City RA**; Dominic Falso, **East Passyunk Civic Assn**; Miguel Garces, Jerry Sulat, Sarah Stevenson, **East Point Breeze Neighbors**; Joseph Kain, **Fishtown Neighbors Assn**; Jamie Gauthier, **Garden Court CA**; Andrew Toy, **Logan Square NA**; Barbara Capozzi, **Packer Park**; **Jeff Brown**, Ilene Wilder, **Passyunk Square CA**; Jeff Hornstein, **Queen Village NA**; Roseanne Loesch, Lorna Katz, **Society Hill CA**; Peter Zutter, **S. Broad Street NA**; Barry Grossbach, **Spruce Hill CA**; Lucia Esther, Chuck Bode, **W. Powelton/Saunders Park**; Horace Patterson, **Walnut Hill CA**; Judy Applebaum, Lyric Chen, **Washington Square West**; Patricia Forcina, **West Passyunk** ;

**Also present:** Rob Kettell; Tanner Rouse, Steve Masters, Paul Boni

**Not represented: 7 Associations, including,** Callowhill N A; East Falls CA ; East Kensington NA, Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition; Northern Liberties NA; Overbrook Farms; Woodland Terrace Homeowners

Suggested motions written prior to the meeting were circulated with the handouts. The agenda was taken out of order to allow our guest speakers to go first:

**III. MATTERS REQUIRING VOTES**

**A. Bill 170335:**

Steve Masters, working with Councilwoman Cherelle Parker, looked at practice throughout the City of how civics approach getting information from developers. Through of the work of Parker/staff, in working with community groups and the Developer’s Workshop, they came up with legislation that Developers agreed not to oppose, including a Project Information Form that developers are required to fill out for any project over 2500 SF or over 3 residential units. The form asks for information the developer may not have and are therefor not required to fill out, such as wage/benefit information for construction workers and tenant employees. Some civics felt the legislation doesn’t go far enough.

The form is required in order for a variance appeal to proceed. The forms are supposed to be posted online by a City agency, and remain there for five years. The Law Department has given the opinion that the ZBA will not be able to use this information in order to render a decision. This Bill goes before Council on May 11.

Comments included: Confidentiality concerns; Does it apply to By-right (no); will it have teeth if developer doesn’t fulfill on how they answered questions (no); add a component for construction debris; the teeth are that the form as to be filed, not that it is complied with.

Motion III of the handout was tabled, as members need to consult their boards before a vote.

## B. TWO INITIATIVES for Legislation

Paul Boni, Society Hill, has identified two problems and two solutions, previously circulated to members, discussed two suggestions that received a thumbs up from Zoning & Land Use Committee - 1) having Historic Commission applicants post a notice like the orange ZBA notice (but a different color) and 2) ask that the 30 day appeal period from of right zoning approvals run from the date the plans are placed online rather than from the date that the by-right permit is issued, or placed on the building

Comments on 1 included:

- Significant changes can be made to buildings that are on Historical Commission Schedule; is it possible to get the PHC hearing put on same calendar for public viewing as ZBA hearings
- What if it is a By-right building that no longer exists? Where is notice posted?
- Postings don't stay up
- Can we get PCH hearings on same calendar as ZBA hearings? (Join PHC bi-monthly email blast list)
- if a demolition is scheduled, the demo notice is posted

Comments on 2 included:

- Has this been vetted? Paul has discussed this with Councilman Squilla's office, which suggested bringing it to Crosstown.

### **MOTION** for Historic Commission POSTED NOTICE:

Rob Kettell moved that the Crosstown support legislation requiring applicants to the Historic Commission to post a sign provided by the Commission as to the date, time and place of the hearing. Barry Rosenbach seconded; Discussion changed the word 'hearing' to 'public meeting'. Motion passed.

### **MOTION** that the Crosstown support legislation starting the 30-day appeal clock for by right zoning applications from the dated that the plans are filed

Rob Kettell moved that the Crosstown support legislation. Roseanne Loesch seconded; Discussion: change words "are filed" to 'made available online'. Motion passed, with Jamie Gauthier abstaining, citing concern about this being cumbersome for by-right projects.

Agenda resumed back at beginning:

## I. **HOUSEKEEPING – PCC Chair Steve Huntingdon**

### A. Quorum Count

Attendance sheet indicates 72% of members represented – 18 out o 25

B. Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the previous Board meeting, March 20, 2017, and Judy Applebaum, Washington Square West, moved to approve the minutes and Ilene Wilder, Passyunk Square CA seconded. The motion passed, minutes approved.

C. Finance Report

Treasurer Ed Panek is absent. Chair S. Huntington briefly reported that there is annual member fees will be due next month, and that bills will go out within two weeks. Payment should be sent to 2226 Delancey, 19103.

D. Nomination meeting – will be held June 12, 6:00 pm, 1608 Walnut, 12<sup>th</sup> Fl

E. Nominations solicited: All positions are open except Secretary. To stay in office more than 3 years requires 75% vote of support. So far, Ilene Wilder has nominated Jeff Hornstein for Chair. Judy Applebaum has nominated Ilene Wilder to succeed as co-chair, which would require a 75% vote. Jeff Hornstein has nominated Vice Chair: Jamie Gauthier, Treasurer: Ilene Wilder, Secretary: Celeste Hardester.

F. Dues: Member dues are due by June 30 and bills will be presented shortly. Dues are calculated on a sliding scale:

- Organizations with an annual budget below \$10,000 - \$100 per year
- Between \$10,000 and \$50,000 - \$250 per year
- Greater than \$50,000 - \$500 per year
- Greater than \$100,000 - \$1,000 per year

II. **UPDATES**

A. FONE THIRD SUMMIT APR 29 – very successful, 120 attendees, 28 Friends of Schools, including some from North Philadelphia, and Southwest Philadelphia (none from the Northeast). Plenary session and breakout groups on issues like diversity play groups bullying, teachers/needs. Event was cost neutral to PCC, thanks to \$1000 contribution from Goldenberg group, food from Acme at no-cost; Comcast providing 43<sup>rd</sup> floor space thanks to an Friends founding member who is an exec at Comcast, who invited us back next year.

F/U Survey: 83% found it Good/helpful; 70% were from Friends groups; everyone wants more diversity; FONE can hook up experienced Friends with new Friends groups; Digital tools needed; Grants funding want to see diversity.

B. SLAPP IN HARRISBURG – SB 95

See F.

C. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING STATIONS

This bill passed in City Council. Con-sponsored by Councilmen Oh and Squilla; Very sophisticated research done to support this legislation; Roseanne Loesch testified;

D. SIGNAGE ON BEN FRANKLIN PARKWAY on MSB and Old Bell Tell

We wrote letters about this legislation. The Advertising firm that made its presentation has not returned for its presentation to the Arts Commission.

E. SCHIAVO OLD CITY GREEN GIFT DONATIONS

\$600 in donations have been received by PCC and this will go to Old City Green

F. COUNCIL VERSION OF ANTI SLAPP BILL

Jeff Hornstein reported that Councilman Squilla is holding off on proceeding with a City SLAPP bill pending the decision of the State Legislature session (it has passed the Senate again but may die in House). Representative John Taylor has not scheduled a meeting on this yet, and his support is critical to getting the House vote.

G. GIVING CIRCLE

Andy Toy reported that grant decisions have been made for 7 schools. (Grants come from individuals/groups; a grant of \$250 makes you a voting member); Grants are only available for high-poverty schools that are local and elementary, and not Charter. Grants provide books, gardening, participation in science Olympiad, and trips to Franklin Institute, Walnut St. Theater.

Concept was suggested of creating a graphic for this – Steve Huntington is supposed to send Celeste Hardester a request. (What details are available on this request?)

H. QUESTIONNAIRES FOR CONTROLLER AND DA RACE

Members asked to post the responses to these questionnaires on their websites.

I. RCO REGULATIONS BILL #170285

Steve Huntington testified at the Rules Committee, during which they amended the Bill to remove Section 7.

**MOTION:** Barry Grossbach moved that the Crosstown Coalition take steps to oppose the amendment exempting wards from the regulations pertaining to RCO's. Barbara Capozzi seconded. Some discussion. Motion passed 22 with 1 abstentions

Steve Huntington updated on Council Committee Procedures re Publication of Amendments

**MOTION:** Lucia Esther Moved that the Crosstown Coalition request that Council Committees be required to provide due process notice of bill amendments before Committee hearings. Barbara Capozzi seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 17-2 with no abstentions.

J. REMINDER - Crosstown cosponsored Controller debate Tues May 9, 6 pm. 230 So Broad 17<sup>th</sup> FL. To register [ticketleap registration](#).

**III. MATTERS REQUIRING VOTES cont.**

A. BILL 170335:

**MOTION:** Judy Applebaum moved that we take no action on this bill at this time, as members may need to go back to their boards. Barry Grossbach seconded. 10 supported, 1 opposed. The suggestion was made to email your board's votes to Steve Huntington.

B. TWO INITIATIVES SUGGESTED BY PAUL BONI, SOCIETY HILL. Voted on as indicated above in section III B.

C. GERRYMANDERING Rob Kettel suggests that Xtown take a position on gerrymandering of political districts by weighing in on Harrisburg legislation which would remove legislative remapping decisions from the legislature and governor and, through Bill 22, substitute an Independent Commission. The question for the Board is whether we should take up this issue.

**MOTION:** Roseanne Loesch moved that the Crosstown should support Senate Bill 22 re gerrymandering. Chuck Bode seconded. Discussion: Roseanne said that being from a populous area, our votes don't get represented in such a concentrated area. Judy Applebaum expressed that this is outside the scope of an RCO. Lynda Payne said this is a non-partisan issue. Rob Kettel said the issue does need to be addressed in this session of the legislature, for a commission to be able to act in time for the census. Vote: 13 supported, 8 opposed, 4 abstained. A study committee was formed for Crosstown to address this, headed by Rob Kettel, with Tanner Rouse and someone for Society Hill (to be identified by Roseanne Loesch).

D. ASSIGNMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN SHOOTING: Jamie Gauthier, Garden Court, has agreed to introduce this issue as to whether the Crosstown should take a position here. Per news reports: Phillippe Holland, a pizza delivery employee, was shot by two plain clothes police officers in West Philadelphia responding with drawn guns to a report of shots fired. Holland stated that he thought he was being robbed and fled to his car, which he backed up in order to leave the curb. The officers stated they thought Holland was using the vehicle as a weapon and fired 14 shots seriously injuring Holland who received a 4 million dollar settlement from the City after Commissioner Ramsey issued an apology almost immediately. The officers were suspended then reassigned to West Phila. Four civics (including Xtown member Garden Court) wrote a letter objecting to the assignment. In response, the officers were reassigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (South Phila east of Broad) and the 8<sup>th</sup> District (Northeast).

Jamie said Garden Court and the other three civics are about to assemble a community meeting, which will be open to members of Crosstown members. It is clear that because these officers were suspended for 25 days, the PPD believes they did something wrong. (Under the Union contract, PPD needs to have them on payroll. Barry Grossbach said that normally he would feel that Crosstown not get involved in neighborhood events, but this is clearly an issue that crosses

boundaries, and he feels it is appropriate for Crosstown to take a position. Matt Skolnick agreed with this. Chuck Bode said Crosstown should encourage PPD to address this as a policy issue, that it not just be a problem that gets shifted to another district. The PPD broke their own policy with allowing these one-year officers to go into plainclothes – FOP didn't follow their own protocol.

A motion was discussed but not made. Decision was that Jamie Gauthier, Barry Grossbach, and Patricia Forcina will work on a letter to the PPD that can be taken to Crosstown Member boards for consideration.

#### **IV. POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- A. DESIGN GUIDELINES: In response to a request from Callowhill Neighborhood Association we shared design guidelines from Central Roxborough and Queen Village re their approaches.
  
- B. ZBA & RCO INPUT: Fishtown's Matt Karp has done this fascinating workup of Zoning Board operations.

Due to time, neither of these items was discussed.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

PPA embarking on new money scheme to allow 45 Billboards. Ilene Wilder and Roseanne Loesch sent information about this to Steve Huntington.

Barbara Capozzi stated that there was an arson committed at 20<sup>th</sup> and Wharton, and vandalism in Northern Liberties, and that both of these events may be connected to an anarchy group. She sits on the Crime Commission and reports that ATF finds these events to be very, very serious. An arrest has been made, with the accused person out on \$2500 bail; the Builders Association has put up \$2500 towards finding more culprits. Does Crosstown want to put some money towards this?

Next meeting June12<sup>th</sup>.

As recorded by Celeste Hardester, Secretary