

## QVNA Board Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2012

Board Members Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Bill Landy, Cindy Elliott, Brent Chavis, Honey Pertnoy, Kim Maialetti, Kathy DiLonardo, Leslie Patterson-Tyler, Mike Hauptman, Carla Puppin (Executive Director)

Committee members present: Jean Barr (Historic Preservation)

### 1. Approval of March Minutes

Two amendments were proposed to the draft March Board meeting minutes. The Historic Preservation Committee and the Sustainability Committee both requested funding for Southwark 250 activities and both requests were approved. The Sustainability Committee's request for bike rack funding was turned over to the Grant Committee.

A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was made, seconded and approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Check details, Deposit Details, a Profit and Lost Statement and a Balance Sheet were circulated.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report for March 2012 was made, seconded and approved.

### 3. President's Report

- a. Vacant Land Meeting. President Jeff Hornstein reported that Representative Squilla has given qualified support for the proposed land bank bill introduced by Council members Maria Quinones-Sanchez and Bill Green, but that the bill needs amendments to give communities the first right to acquire any available land.
- b. Property Tax Advisory Group. Jeff noted that Mayor Nutter is trying to set a fixed 12% tax rate now, and reassess market values later. This is viewed as problematic, because there is no way of knowing what actual taxes will be if the reassessment of market value isn't performed first. Representative Squilla introduced a bill on the grounds that the Mayor's approach is illegal under Pennsylvania law. Civic groups are actively monitoring the program and Jeff

expects the realtor groups to become involved later. The City Council hearing on the budget will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jeff will provide the Board with a summary of the hearing. Rich Miller's committee will be spearheading QVNA's comments and involvement in the process.

- c. Parking Lot. There is a need in the neighborhood for a second lot, which could provide additional revenue for other QVNA initiatives. Tax attorney, Steve Frishberg, has given QVNA a quote of \$2500 to prepare an opinion on any unrelated business income tax issues before we move forward with the second lot. There will be a meeting with Frishberg for all interested Board members to go over the opinion when ready.

A motion was made to approve the engagement of Steve Frishberg and to expend \$2500 on the opinion, seconded and approved.

- d. General Meeting Agenda. Arrangements for the April meeting were discussed. Kennett restaurant is ready to sponsor the meeting. Jeff and Executive Director Carla Puppini will discuss bringing in food and alcohol with Father Oliver of St. Philip Neri, although the April meeting will have food only and attendees will be polled on having alcohol at future meetings. The first half of the meeting will be set aside for socializing. Leslie Patterson-Tyler will lead the second half of the meeting, which will feature Dr. Ralph Burnley of Nebinger School.

#### 4. Executive Director Report

Carla Puppini reported on the following items:

- a. Property Tax Rebates. Carla noted that she is helping neighborhood seniors complete property tax rebate forms, as featured in the February issue of The Crier.
- b. Open House Tour. Carla has received the minimum of six houses for the Open House Tour to be held May 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 pm. QVNA is using PayPal for those wishing to attend and some local businesses are offering coupons or discounts to support the event. Additional houses wishing to be on the tour must commit by the end of April.
- c. Queen Village Tree Tenders. Thirteen new trees will be delivered for the neighborhood on April 21[?]. There will be additional trees available this fall. An initiative is needed to ask homeowners to water the trees. Tree gators are not provided with the trees and need to be purchased separately.
- d. Weccacoe Survey. Research Terry Buckalew has asked QVNA for a letter of support in his efforts to lobby the City to perform a ground-penetrating survey

of Weccacoe, based on research that he believes indicates that the park was once a gravesite. There was a general discussion of how much such a survey would cost and what might be the ramifications of the survey results. Carla Puppini will draft a qualified letter of support and circulate it to several Board members for comment.

## **5. New Business**

The Board had a general discussion of preparing Committee budgets for smaller projects/events. There was a proposal that a cap for these smaller events be set for each Committee, with invoices for specific expenditures submitted on an on-going basis. Jeff noted that there was a surplus of \$11,000 last year, although we should not expect a repeat of the \$10,000 state grant received in 2011. The Board agreed to discuss setting aside an amount for smaller Committee projects and grants after QVNA has received the attorney's opinion on the parking lot/unrelated business income tax issue, so we will know whether we might be receiving revenues from a second lot. There is also a \$65,000 reserve and the Board discussed what the minimum reserve amount should be and the possibility of drawing down the amount of the reserve to fund future initiatives. The Board will also address cost-cutting measures so that more money would be available for initiatives.

## **6. Weccacoe Grant Request.**

Weccacoe would like to have a scale model of improvements planned for the park available at the FunFest. A company has offered to create the scale model for the cost of materials only – not more than \$900.

The request that up to \$900 be granted to Weccacoe for the scale model was moved, seconded and approved.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- a. Dogs. A full meeting was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Committee intends to purchase 5 specialized pet waste containers from Old City, along with the plans needed to build additional containers. There will be a media campaign to announce the containers and the Committee will seek sponsorship from businesses and individuals.
- b. Schools and Youth. It Takes Queen Village, the neighborhood canvassing initiative will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will meet at Weccacoe at 9:00 for training. Volunteers will receive post cards to leave with neighborhood residents, encouraging involvement by donating time, money and/or advocacy. Sample cards were distributed and comments provided. There is a Facebook page and twitter @qvnaschoolnews. Leslie Patterson-Tyler noted that schools

need volunteer tutors and have training programs. Leslie also asked for help in creating a press release.

- c. Historic Preservation – Jean Barr noted that Southwark 250 celebration will take place from 12:00 – 4:00 at Old Swedes Church in April 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be three presenters between 1:00 and 3:00. There will be pretzels, beer, activities for children and posters of Queen Village scenes available.
- d. Sustainability. A written report on the Sustainability Fair to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Weccacoe Playground was circulated (a copy is attached).
- e. Community Building/Public Relations. Kim Maialetti requested funds to purchase Phillies tickets so that they could be sold through the New Wave Café in advance. Any tickets not sold there will be made available on-line.

A motion approved the release of funds to purchase Phillies tickets was made, seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Elliott  
Recording Secretary