

Queen Village Neighbors Association Board Meeting

February 5, 2015

Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Ben Schindler, Cindy Elliott, Kathy Dilonardo, Amy Grant, Eleanor Ingersoll, Lauren Leonard, Peter Ross, Duncan Spencer, Frank Tavani, Carla Puppini (Executive Director), Cathy Conway (emeritus)

Absent: Sean Edwards, Jonathan Rubin

Guests: Honey Pertnoy and Brent Chavis

1. Minutes. The board reviewed the minutes from the January meeting; no revisions were necessary.

***Ben Schindler moved that the minutes be approved as revised, Peter Ross seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

2. Financials. Ben reported that the bank accounts have been adjusted so that all restricted funds are in the TD account. There was nothing unusual to report; Ben said it was the most normal month financially so far. Some revenues for the magazine are in late, which is why there's only \$500 net receipts for magazine instead of the \$1500 per issue that QVNA should expect in the future.

Ben also noted that snow removal for January should be about \$2000 (removal took place on January 6th and 27th and February 4th and one other time). The Board discussed the basis upon which LRC Balanced Cleaning (LRC), our contractor, decides removal is necessary and how QVNA should monitor the costs. As background, it was explained that the east side of Front between Washington and South is orphaned sidewalk (there are no or very few homes on that side of the street), so there is no one to clear the snow. QVNA decided a couple of years ago to pay LRC to remove snow from that area. A question was raised about the basis upon which QVNA pays LRC (per event, monthly, etc.); Carla Puppini will check what contract says about payment basis and advise the Board.

***Amy Shelanski moved that the financial statements be approved as presented, Amy Grant seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

3. President's Report

a. Old Swedes. Rev. Joy Segal called Jeff Hornstein to ask about the parking spaces to be made available to Old Swedes staff during the day. Jeff asked that she provide QVNA with a proposal on the number of spaces needed.

b. Plenty Café. A café is proposed for the corner of 5th and Monroe. Anthony and Damon Mascieri, for whom this would be their third shop, are proposing to operate the café from 7:00 pm to midnight and will request a liquor license, Eleanor Ingersoll explained Meredith's issues with a café

located so near the school and noted that the Mascieris have agreed to meet with Meredith in advance of filing for the liquor license transfer.

c. Hungry Pigeon. QVNA agreed to a Conditional Licensing Agreement (CLA) with the developers of the Hungry Pigeon restaurant to be located at 4th and Fitzwater. Senator Larry Farnese's representative had asked that the CLA prohibit Hungry Pigeon from serving alcohol to people who were standing, but Paul and Scott did not agree to this provision. Jeff estimates that it should take the Liquor Control Board (LCB) around six weeks to sign off on the CLA terms. Senator Farnese will withdraw his appeal if LCB signs the CLA; any other petitioners before LCB will proceed on their own.

d. Crosstown Coalition – There will be an education program on March 26th. Thirty schools will be participating and the Coalition is working to get Friends of Neighborhood Schools Groups involved. There will also be a mayoral candidate forum and Jeff asked the Board to go through proposed candidate questions and offer comments.

e. Five Families – We are trying to build a collaboration with four area community associations: Bella Vista, Washington West, Society Hill and South Street/Head House. On March 18th, Society Hill will host a mayoral candidate forum and will use the Crosstown Coalition questionnaire as basis. The forum will be held at Pennsylvania Hospital and QVNA will co-host. QVNA will also co-host a mayoral candidate forum on April 16th at Settlement Music School with the same civic associations.

f. General Meetings. There are still plans for the March meeting to focus on 4th Street. The April meeting will focus on the upcoming elections. February is unscheduled for now and Amy Shelanski will be responsible for planning this meeting. In connection with a discussion about where this meeting will be held, Cathy Conway reported that she's heard from people that they don't like having the meeting moved around and they often miss meetings that aren't held at St. Philip Neri Church.

4. Executive Director's Report. Jim Minacci, sexton at Old Swedes Church, has asked Carla to request money for upcoming programs. Maria Roberts noted that Jim should follow the grant procedure and present a proposal accordingly. Ben said he would work on documenting the procedure. Carla reported that all end-of-year tax transmittals have been done, including six 1099s. Carla also reported that she is putting together a procedural handbook. The QVNA office toilet is broken. Carla has requested estimates and found it would cost \$325 to replace it (repair not being a viable option).

***Amy Shelanski moved that the Board authorize spending \$325 to replace the toilet, Amy Grant seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

5. Committees

a. Ad Hoc Dog Waste Container. (Amy Shelanski and Frank Tavani). Amy talked about having surveyed the existing locations and proposed that some cans be moved to new locations, noting that many sponsors aren't taking care of the refuse. She proposed that we have the cans emptied on a schedule: once a week during the winter and twice a week the rest of the year. A quote received from

LRC was provided. Amy said that if the Board does not engage a third party to remove the dog container refuse, the ad hoc committee proposes removing the containers altogether.

Honey Pertnoy, former Board member and Co-Chair of the Dog Committee along with Brent Chavis, addressed the Board. They objected to the ad hoc committee's proposal because the Dog Committee wasn't consulted in advance. Honey and Brent felt this was disrespected and said that the Dog Committee didn't get the support it needed from the Board. While Sean Melody and QVK9 helped initially, Sean left the Board and all help stopped at that point. Honey and Brent noted that the ad hoc committee report is incorrect in a number of respects regarding the parties taking responsibility for emptying the containers. Honey said the Dogs Committee is fine with QVNA having LRC take over refuse removal, but advised that once a week won't work, even in winter. Jeff agreed that QVNA should have had more conversations with Brent and Honey in advance and should have moved faster in providing financial help. The Board apologized to Honey (Brent had left the meeting) for the way in which the ad hoc committee report was handled. QVNA will let Honey know what the Board decides to do.

There followed further discussion by the Board about whether it should allocate money to go ahead with the program. Maria Roberts suggested a one-year pilot and see how it works. Lauren Leonard says there needs to be a tracking protocol put into place ahead of time in order to evaluate the performance of the pilot. Maria suggested that a group be formed to talk about how to manage the program. Ben noted that money was initially allocated to the Dogs Committee – a restricted fund under our rules – to get the program up and running and believes the funding for the pilot study should come from that allocation, rather than unrestricted QVNA funds. There is \$2000+ in the committee currently. He also believes the committee should be reconstituted and follow normal grant procedures for any additional funding.

Amy Grant moved that Amy Shelanski and Frank Tavani run a pilot program in which LRC removes the dog container refuse using existing funds in the Dogs Committee account, provided that a plan for completion and success markers are identified in advance. Lauren Leonard seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a majority of the Board.

b. Communications. Peter Ross reported that they would like to expand the QVNA Magazine to allow for additional pages and room for more ads. The extra ads will cover the increased cost of the extra pages.

c. Weccacoe. Duncan Spencer reported that the Friends of Weccacoe met with the Parks & Recreation Department. He noted some minor movement on renovation of the playground only. Duncan advised Rev. Tyler about meeting.

d. Friends of Nebinger/Schools & Youth. The Committee held a Shot Tower Coffee Event during the recent blizzard which 27 families attended. Nebinger Principal Brown sent 4 teachers to speak. Eleanor noted that Nebinger has a well-respected autistic program.

6. New Business: Honey Pertnoy reported that the construction site at Delaware Avenue and Catharine Street has been an incredible eyesore that is causing destruction in the adjacent

neighborhood – plywood along Delaware Avenue is covered with graffiti, the developers' vehicles have destroyed the streets, idling trucks pollute the air. Honey asks that QVNA get the developer to remedy these problems. Cathy Conway supports Honey's arguments and supports QVNA taking action. She noted that the project at New Market has been managed in a way that is much more respectful of the adjacent neighborhood. Jeff said that he has sent an email to the builder, John Farina of U.S. Construction, who said he would redress situation. Honey noted that she has tried to deal with Farina, but he is not responsive. Cathy suggested that the developer be invited to QVNA to answer for its failures. Jeff says that QVNA has to deal with Councilman Squilla and L&I, also. Eleanor asked Honey for any information she has, such as dates the trucks are there idling, etc., in addition to the pictures Honey presented.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy A. Elliott, Esq.
Recording Secretary