

QVNA Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2012

Board Members Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Ted Warren, Brent Chavis,
Kathy Dilonardo, Kim Maialetti, Rich Miller, Honey Pertnoy
Carla Puppini(Executive Director)

Committee Chairs Present: Walt Lowthian (Friends of Weccacoe), Ed Bell (Sustainability
Committee), Cynthia Temple (Historic
Preservation Committee)

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Jeff Hornstein asked if the board had any changes to the minutes from the February 2nd meeting. There were two small changes; one regarding spelling and one the name of a presenter at the last meeting. It was noted and agreed that all motions and seconds to accept proposals should be identified by name in the minutes. Honey moved to accept the minutes, Brent seconded the motion. Acceptance of the minutes was unanimous.

2. Treasurer's Report

Check details, deposit details, profit and loss statement and a balance sheet were circulated. Carla Puppini noted that a check for gas in the amount of \$555.42 represented 2 months of usage, and that check # 5201 to Dan Gibbon was a reimbursement from funds approved by the board to Tree Tenders back in October of 2011.

Carla pointed out that new income lines had been added to the profit and loss statement for PayPal donations to the Friends of Weccacoe and QVNA.

Ted moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Kathy seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

3. President's Report

The Philadelphia School District Building in Queen Village (**400 block of Monroe St.**) is up for sale and. They would like a rep from QVNA to serve on a committee that will oversee that process. Jeff will fill that role.

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) will be starting work of its District plans. Jeff will act as primary rep from Queen Village for this project, but wanted to identify and alternate for the March 19th meeting that he will not be able to attend. Kim Maialetti agreed to serve as alternate and report back to the board

Plans for the Passyunk Pedestrian Plaza are all but dead in the wake of opposition to the plan from a number of business owners in the area. At least one owner claimed that they were not contacted about the plan in a timely fashion by South Street Headhouse District (SSHD), and insisted that the plaza would negatively impact their business(es).

Jeff indicated that he was getting a lot of questions, concerns, and complaints related to traffic and pedestrian safety issues. He suggested that the defunct Transportation Committee be revived in order to address these and other issues. Amy volunteered to chair the committee.

Two contentious zoning issues have cropped up in Queen Village. The first involves 531 Washington Avenue and the attempt by the owner to build a rear addition to the building in order to have a restaurant functioning in the first floor of the structure. Residents of the area are opposed, QV Zoning denied the request, but the issue was put on hold at the ZBA hearing because of apparent support from a committee person from that Division of the 2nd Ward. Councilman Squilla's office is involved in supporting the residents who are opposed. The second issue involves the application for a night club on South Street between 2nd and 3rd (old Chef's Market location). Again, a majority of residents in the area are opposed to the prop, but people claiming to represent the neighbors showed up at the ZBA hearing to support it. Jeff and Mike Hauptman have agreed that the ZBA hearing procedure needs to be scrutinized and have asked to meet with Councilman Squilla to discuss this.

There was a recent Liquor License committee meeting at which the restaurant Ela was granted permission for outdoor seating. There were conditions to the approval including the size of tables allowed, and no serving of alcohol at the outside tables after 10:00 p.m.

Finally, Jeff mentioned that Wal-Mart will be redesigning their location on Columbus Blvd. to bring in a Super Center. The company is giving out grants to the surrounding communities to improve/develop relations with these neighborhoods. The amount potentially available to Queen Village would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Jeff proposed that if these funds were made available to Queen Village, the money would be best spent by putting it towards the funding of the Community Center. The board was in agreement and the issue will be voted on at the time any funds are donated.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Weccacoe Playground/Community Center – Walt Lowthian reported on efforts to plan a June fundraising event for the Friends of Weccacoe. The Department of Parks and Recreation has a new permit process that will make holding the event more difficult than anticipated because of permit application fees, proof of insurance, and deposits required. Walt said that the nature of the event may need to be changed if there is too much bureaucracy and cost involved in holding as originally planned

Jeff reported that he met with Councilman Squilla regarding funds for the community center and that the meeting was positive overall.

- b. Sustainability – Ed Bell discussed plan for a Sustainability Fair that would piggy-back onto the Friends of Weccacoe event. The Sustainability Committee would basically have a presence at the Weccacoe event and hold sustainable practices demonstrations and give-aways. Ed mentioned that the equipment needed and the speaker's fees would require about \$1,200-\$1,500 and requested these funds from QVNA. It was agreed that, based on recent funding request criteria, the request should go through the Grants Committee.

Andrew Levitt made a presentation about two new programs the Sustainability Committee would like to develop to encourage alternatives to car ownership.

The first was an abandoned bike removal and recycling program where clearly abandoned bikes would be tagged and then removed by the City after a waiting period of 1 month. The removed bikes would be donated to the Neighborhood Bike Works non-profit, who would rehab the bikes and make them available to youths in the neighborhood. Andrew is seeking a letter of support from QVNA to the South Street Mini-station so that they, in turn, can write a letter of support to the City for this program. The Board indicated that they would like to review the existing Philly Bike Coalition policy to see if we should just adopt that procedure before creating a letter of support.

The second was a sidewalk bike rack program that would allow home owners to purchase bike racks at a subsidized price and install them in front of their houses. This would benefit people with limited indoor space for bicycle storage. The cost of the racks would be reduced by QVNA purchasing them in bulk effectively cutting the cost to home owners by 50%. Andrew requested \$1,350 from the Board to facilitate this program. It was agreed by the board that this request should go through the Grants Committee.

- c. Historic Preservation – Cynthia Temple discussed plans for the Southwark 250th anniversary event. The committee is requesting funds for entertainment food, marketing and presentation materials that will cost at maximum \$2,600 and at minimum \$1,600. The point was made that a \$400 deposit was already put down on the venue and that planning needed to move forward and contracts agreed to ensure the event happens as planned. The Board approved the request for funds.
- d. Public Relations – Kim and Rich reported that tickets have been reserved for the QV Phillies night out on July 24th, 2012. There are 100 tickets available.
- e. Dogs – Brent Chavis reported on a meeting that took place with the Old City group responsible for the dog waste stations in that neighborhood and issue awareness signage. The meeting was productive provided ideas for the QV group to consider for future efforts. There was also a meeting with a designer from the University of the Arts regarding the ML dog park calendar.
- f. Beautification – Ted reported that the Beautification Committee had its first meeting and there was a good turnout. An article about residential trash disposal is being prepared for the April Crier, as street survey of trash receptacles is being done, and Spring street clean-ups will be promoted and managed by the committee.

The requests from the Sustainability and Historic Preservation Committees sparked discussion about grants to committees and whether there should be some kind of a cap on monies granted or established budgets set up for each committee. It was agreed that there should be further conversation with the Treasurer about the possibility of a committee budget structure being set-up so that these groups are working with finite and well-defined resources and also reporting expenditures to the QVNA Board. In the meantime, a motion to approve the request for funds from the Sustainability Committee was made by Jeff and seconded by Amy.

Executive Director's Report

Reminder: committee chairs should always circulate sign-in sheets at meetings—they are important for the purposes of record keeping and also determining resident attendance at QVNA-related meetings, and thus eligibility for office

Dept of Parks and Recreation With the merger of the Recreation Dept. and the Fairmount Park Commission into the Dept of Parks and Recreation come new permit forms for special events: This involves amongst other things: an application fee (sliding scale); proof of insurance; security deposit and more. This affects most immediately the Friends of Weccacoe Playground for their upcoming FUNdraiser. My initial inquiry to Nationwide (our commercial liability carrier) about the costs of a 1-day rider for an event with approx. 200 people attending: \$358.00.

ILMC (Interstate Land Management Corporation) funds available for “community maintenance projects”: \$2,756 With no snow in sight, I suggest that I go ahead and ask for the funds and we use them for upcoming projects relative to “community maintenance.” Barry Promos (ILMC Executive Director) anticipates that a similar amount might be available next year as well.

Annual Open House Tour Saturday, May 19, noon to 4 p.m. Three houses so far--my minimum is 6. As usual, I ask that Board members help in finding homeowners who have beautiful, interesting, creative, unusual homes who might be interested in participating. The starting point for ticket pick-up this year will be St. Philip's.

QV Tree Tenders spring planting: slated for Sat. April 21, rain or shine. 17 trees to be planted

5. Other Business

Jeff suggested starting board meetings earlier, as most meeting run over the allotted 90 minutes. There was general agreement that the board should begin meeting at 7:00 p.m. moving forward

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Warren (Vice-President)