



**Washington Square West Civic Association May 12, 2015 Board Meeting
7:00pm**

Jefferson 233 South 10th St Room 105

Minutes

- I. 7:00 Call to order, by President Jonathan Broh, reading of the Mission Statement by President Jonathan Broh.

In Attendance: Jonathan Broh, Judy Ron, Robin Gauri, Robert Sher, Jeff Alexander, Judith Applebaum, J Nathan Bazzel, Andrew Freedman, Reed Lyons, Michael van der Veen, Tami Sortman, Georgia Faino, Adam Klein

Absent: Justine Haemmerli*, Judy Ron*, Robert Taylor

*Notice provided to the President prior to the meeting.

- II. Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2015 Board Meeting by Jeff Alexander, seconded Reed Lyons, unanimous approval by voice vote.
- III. **Community Comments:** New community member asked about street cleaning, discussion about a spring neighborhood cleanup day, currently only a fall neighborhood cleanup scheduled. Andrew Freedman noted that the two impediments to an additional cleanup day our funding and community participation to help in organizing the event.
- IV. **Presidents Report:**
 - (1) Discussion on street lighting, limited funding options, matching grant money may be available from the State, possible funding from funds for park improvements for streets abutting parks, brighter bulbs can be installed in existing lighting and trimming of the tree canopy, but overall options are limited at this time.
 - (2) Possibility of expanding the Washington Square Civic Association boundary to Market Street to represent the expanding neighborhood development on the north side of Chestnut St and south side of Market Street. The formality of increasing the area is not difficult, but concerns about liability and being an effective representative of the area. Issue will be referred to the Zoning Committee for my detailed discussion before being brought back to the Board for consideration.
 - (3) Discussion of if zoning applicants should be requested to donate to neighborhood improvement projects without the appearance of influencing the Civic's non-opposition to development projects. Issue will be referred to the Zoning Committee for further

discussion.

V. Treasurers Report by Robin Gauri

- (1) Summary of the financial position of the Civic.

Total bank account balances as of 4/30/2015

Checking \$10,286

Savings \$73,177

Paypal \$3,677

Total \$87,140

- (2) Tax Return is being prepared by the accountants, a draft will be circulated to the Board, additional information is need for 2014 Directors.

- (3) Motion by Reed Lyons for approval for the Treasurer to sign the returns after reviewing to expedite timely filing. Seconded by Jeff Alexander, unanimous approval by voice vote.

VI. Zoning Committee Report by Jonathan Broh.

266 South 11th- (Update) Proposed Short term property rental – L&I is said to have filed formal citation against the applicant.

730 Lombard Street- Proposed Short term property rental- Motion by Jonathan Broh to not oppose the applicants zoning variance request. Second by Judith Applebaum, unanimous approval by voice vote with the following suggested conditions (1) Trash can with secure lid for the outdoor patio space; (2) To be rented only to one group at a time not to exceed 8 guests; (3) Installation of interconnected smoke detectors throughout the unit.

Undetermined if the zoning variance was a year to year variance requiring yearly renewal by the applicant.

718 Chestnut Street – A referral to the Board for non-opposition to an Asian styled restaurant in the overlay district on Chestnut Street. No liquor license at this time, restaurant intends to occupy ground floor and basement with apartments above. Only the restaurant portion was subject to the referral request. Discussion regarding the overall project and plan details. Jonathan Broh made a motion for non-opposition, seconded by Robert Sher, unanimous approval by voice vote.

229 South Jessup Street – Legalization of existing fence on top of an existing wall in a rear patio. Said to be inconformity with the character of the block. Issue to be brought up at the next Zoning Committee meeting by the Applicant. Jonathan Broh made a motion to give the Zoning Committee voting rights on behalf of the Board. Reed Lyons seconded the motion, unanimous approval by voice vote.

VII. Safety Committee Report by J Nathan Bazzel

Safety Committee is a Civic Committee, Town Watch is a city sponsored activity. They are separate entities operating as one entity at this time. They need additional support from community members to be effective. The Civic should make use of the E-Post and mailed

post to promote Town Watch, Jeff alexander will bring the topic up at the MidTown Village meeting. Townwatch may be eligible for a \$2,000 grant for organization equipment. See below for email circulated to the Board:

Board members,

As I mentioned at this evenings meeting, there are several safety related meetings and initiatives. This email will summarise some of them for you.

1. The Safety Committee meets in conjunction with the Town Watch, every third Tuesday at 6:30pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30pm in the recreation room of the John C. Anderson Apartments. All are welcome to attend.
2. The 3rd Police Service Area (PSA), 6th District of the Philadelphia Police Department holds a meeting every month, just before our regular board meetings. The Civic hosts this meeting as a courtesy to he PPD. This is open to all residents living in the 3rd PSA. This includes Society Hill, Old City, Chinatown, and the Loft District. This meeting gives all residents the opportunity to speak directly to the Police command of our neighbourhood.
3. The 6th Police District Advisory Council meets monthly and is open by invitation from the command of the 6th District. The Safety Chair represents WSWCA at this meeting. This committee advises the command of the 6th district on important police and safety matters.
4. The LGBT Police Liaison Committee meets monthly and is open to members appointed by the PPD and/or the committee. The Safety Chair represents WSWCA at this meeting, as WSW is also the traditional LGBT community. This committee reviews incidents involving PPD and residents who identify as LGBT. It is also involved in sensitivity training and LGBT recruitment initiatives.

What does Town Watch do?

The Town Watch DOES NOT look for bad guys or criminals. Most of our activity is looking for safety related issues in the community and report them. These include street lights that are out, broken manhole covers, damaged sidewalks, graffiti, open hydrants, and other issues. We also work closely with Project Home to locate homeless in WSW, and attempt to provide them with opportunities for services. A team includes a minimum of 2 walkers/riders, and a base unit.

I hope this information is helpful in better understanding what the Safety Chair, and Committee are responsible for in WSW. If you have questions, please feel free to ask. I hope that you will consider joining us for the Tuesday meeting of the Safety Committee.

J

- VIII. Judy Ron has stepped down as Development Committee Chair. Michael van der Veen is willing to commit additional time and visits with potential commercial donors if such requests are supported or suggested by the Board. They are planning a standing meeting of the 1st Tuesday of each month, reviewing funding opportunities.

- IX. Andrew Freedman, Membership Committee Chair, discussed the newsletter recently mailed and membership results:

As of May 12, 2015 464 Members
As of September 30, 2014 475 Members

New Memberships after the Newsletter of April 8, 2015

21 Business
32 Individual / Household

53 Total New Memberships

Advertising Revenue	\$18,042.75 (includes single issue and multi-issue adds)
New Household Members	1,120.00
New Business Members	1,575.00
<hr/>	
Total Revenue	\$20,737.75
Production Cost	9,531.00 (single issue)
Net Revenue	\$11,206.75

Sample of the new contractors list is circulated, this is not a recommended list by the Civic, only a compilation of contractors used by Civic members. Discussion on insurance liability, no clear answers.

Membership committee is not in favor of any rate increases other than those to be proposed by the Policy Committee.

Andrew Freedman requested each Board member solicit at least one new member. He will follow up on potential businesses solicited for membership by Board members.

- X. Segar Park Mural Update – Sample renderings circulated for review. Unclear the level of support from Segar Park for the project.
- XI. Marketing – Tami Sortman asked all board members to like the public Facebook page to raise its visibility. Discussion of why there are two Facebook pages, both started by the Civic according to Tami Sortman, Jonathan Broh advised that only the public page was an official page of the civic, unclear as to if there was a consensus on this topic.
- XII. Government Affairs - Judy Applebaum gave an update on the proposed Anti-Slap legislation intended to protect Civic groups from legal intimidation. Discussion on the Parker-Spruce renovation project, owner intends to significantly improve the property with a name brand hotel operation and possible hotel liquor license. The new owner may be willing to attend the June Zoning Committee meeting to informally discuss the project. No formal confirmation at this time.
- XIII. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee met yesterday evening to finalize a revised draft of the Membership & Election Policy Guideline. I would like to note the following things:

1. We simplified the timing of membership to tie it to a calendar year, regardless of when someone joins or renews. This is consistent with how other organizations operate and is a much more simple and transparent policy. This also ensure that one year's membership only gets each member a vote in that year's elections.
2. After much discussion and debate, the Policy Committee did not feel that the change in rate structure or the time period for discounts is an issue that is appropriate for decision-making by this committee. In pur view, this should be driven by the Membership Committee, and should be vetted separately by the Board as a whole. We would like to have the guideline voted on without any changes to rates/timing, and then address those issues separately. It is really a separate discussion.

Motion to update the Washington Square West Civic Association Membership Policy as outlined below:

Membership

Civic Association members are entitled to the following:

- Issues of **The Post**, our printed newsletter
- Issues of the **E-Post**, our online newsletter (unless the member decides to opt out)
- WSWCA Member Rewards Card
- Voting rights at the Annual Meeting, subject to the WSCWCA Bylaws, in accordance with the following schedule:

Schedule effective _____, 2015[RHT1]

1. Membership shall be on a calendar year January 1 through December 31.
2. Per the By-Laws (Article III) there are two classes of membership, (a) Individual (b) Commercial/Institutional.

Individual and Commercial/Institutional Memberships

\$35.00	Individual Membership*
\$50.00	Individual / Household - One or two Individual Memberships with one address
\$50.00	Small Business (1-10 employees) **
\$100.00	Large Business (11 or more employees)**

Other Memberships

\$15.00	Individual Student Membership*
\$15.00	Individual Senior Membership*
\$1.00	Individual (as defined)*
\$100.00	Patron(s) - One or two Individual Memberships with one address
\$200.00	Benefactor(s) - One or two Individual Memberships with one address
\$350.00	1935 Society Level - One or two Individual Memberships with one address

In order to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, or any meeting in which a membership vote is authorized, membership must be current as of the last day of the month prior to the month of the election.

*Individual Memberships (1 individual member) shall be entitled to all privileges of membership to the civic, civic board, committees, committee chairs, and voting as defined in the bylaws.

**Business members are entitled to one vote, which may be cast only by an agent of that establishment duly authorized in writing to represent it to the WSWCA. No individual may vote more than once, meaning that an individual can vote pursuant to an individual membership or for one business but not as both or for more than one business or individual membership.

Any person voting the commercial membership interest must be someone with a direct interest in the entity as owner/co-owner of the entity, in the employ of the entity, or otherwise entitled to represent the entity in its normal course of business. Other proxy representation is not acceptable.

Judy Applebaum made a motion to approve the Policy Amendment, Jeff Alexander seconded the motion, unanimous approval by voice vote.

- XIV. Jonathan Broh announced the resignation of Justine Haemmerli from the Board and requested that all nominations for the open position be submitted to the Board prior to June 2nd, after which time the Board would review filling the open position.

The following letter had been submitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

Dear Fellow WSWCA Board Members,

Good afternoon - I hope this finds you well, and that you are able to enjoy the beautiful day.

I'm writing to submit my resignation from the WSWCA Board. I have been reflecting so much since the last meeting I was able to attend, back in February, and I think the time has finally come for me to roll off. I've struggled for the past two years to balance my commitment to WSWCA and our board and the other things going on in my life, and as I realize that I will have to miss our May board meeting as well for the class I help to run, it is clear to me that I need to do what is right for both me and the organization, as opposed to continuing to just "push ahead" when it isn't working, or allowing me to be the kind of board

member I want to and know I could be. With my work schedule and my other commitments growing in scope and depth, I'm missing meetings, slow on emails, and generally unable to show up in the way I would want to as a board member. I want to focus my energies on the Young Friends group, which I hope to still be able to chair even if I'm not a board member.

I have resisted leaving the board for the past six months, even though staying on has been a challenge personally and professionally; I wanted to make sure I didn't transition out during a time of tumult, and I thought that perhaps if I just tried harder, I could make it all work. I realize now that this isn't true - trying harder won't make me a stronger contributor to our work - and I see that the board and organization are in a healthy and stable place right now, which gives me peace in transitioning out. I am conflicted and sad to have to do this, as I've met lovely people on the board and feel proud to represent our community in this role, but I know it's the right thing to do.

I want to thank you for your support, collegiality, and for being part of my entrance into Philadelphia. I joined the WSWCA as a member the week I moved here from NYC not knowing a soul; three months later I was working with Karen to plan the first Witches and Woofs event, and three months after that I was proud to propose the Young Friends group to the board, and become its chair, soon thereafter being elected to the board. The WSWCA has always been a part of my life in Philadelphia since moving here, and I intend for it to continue to be. I do hope to be able to stay on as the Young Friends chair, and really commit myself to making that group vibrant, meaningful, robust, and an important piece of WSWCA's work.

As I extend my gratitude to all of you who have helped me to learn and grow in this role, I want to specifically thank Jonathan for his leadership as our president - I think he's done a tremendous job in steadying the ship. In addition, I would like to extend a hearty thank you to Andrew, who has been so incredibly supportive, patient, and generous in working with me on various projects, as well as Adam, who helped me to gain a better sense of the Young Friends group's direction at the end of last year; I so appreciate your kindness, equanimity, and insight.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and to continuing our good work together henceforth. Thank you for your understanding.

Warmly,
Justine

XV. Community Comment – None

XVI. A motion was made to adjourn by Judy Applebaum seconded by Reed Lyons, motion approved. Meeting was adjourned by Jonathan Broh at 8:45.