

WCGN BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018
131 West Walnut Lane
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Luke Russell at five o'clock and handed over to Rama Assaf-Smith, President. A motion to adopt the minutes of the April 11th meeting was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Denise Alexander, Treasurer, reported that the organization now has \$4,400, up \$500 since the previous meeting. A suggestion was put forward to standardize the collection of dues to coincide with the fiscal year, but no action was taken. Luke Russell reminded members of the benefits that accrue to the community from the untiring efforts put forth by WCGN--particularly with regard to zoning matters--urging them in the strongest possible terms to "...pay your damn' dues!" [*laughter, applause*].

Luke Smith proposed that WCGN's new By-Laws, having been presented to the membership at the April meeting, be approved. He added that such approval is a pre-requisite for WCGN's recertification as a Philadelphia RCO. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. The document may be found on the WCGN website.

Luke went on to give a brief summary of what is known to date about the Mosaic Development proposal to construct a multi-family facility on the wooded lot across the street from the Tulpehocken station building, averring that he is encouraged by the responsiveness and cooperative tone of the developer. Construction is, they say, a long way off, but core drilling could take place soon--after which they will be able to tell us more about the size and scope of the project.

Members were also invited to acquaint themselves with two other documents on the website:

- "WCGN Zoning Protocols", a set of specific procedures that the Zoning Committee will follow when setting up and carrying out RCO meetings in response to requests for zoning variances; and
- "Guidelines for Development", a statement of the values this community upholds with regard to new construction or to alteration of existing structures (open space, low density, historic preservation, etc.)

An appeal was made for volunteers to join a Membership Committee (or, even, to chair such a committee), which would have two major thrusts: 1) to "scrub" the current membership list and bring it up to date; and 2) to organize an effort to recruit new members from the surrounding area (probably starting by blanketing the neighborhood with a brochure/flyer to be designed in committee).

Sue Patterson of the Penn-Knox Neighborhood Association announced that, owing to unrelenting pressure from surrounding neighbors, the proposed ice hockey rink at the Boys and Girls Club of Germantown has finally been scrapped, and revised plans are being submitted by the developer. The existing historic structure, long-revered by the community, will be up for designation on the Philadelphia Register at a meeting of the Philadelphia Historical Commission on Friday, June 8th, from 9:00 to noon at the Municipal Services Building, 1515 Arch Street.

On behalf of the garden committee, Marjorie Russell expressed delight and gratitude for the excellent turnout at the May 5th spring workday, where much was accomplished in a very few hours. There is to be a "mini" workday on July 14th (more information to follow). After adjournment a sign-up sheet was passed among the crowd--soliciting volunteers to help with weekly irrigation, as needed, during the growing season.

Jeff Smith delivered an update on SEPTA's ongoing installation of water, sewer, and gas lines to the station building--something the community has awaited for many years. Construction is slated for completion by the end of June. He also introduced a motion that WCGN would petition the relevant and responsible authorities to enforce existing no-parking rules on either side of Tulpehocken Street Extended to allow for

safe passage of two-way traffic. A suggestion was made to turn it into a one-way street instead. An inconclusive discussion ensued; a vote was taken that appeared to favor the motion; some asked to switch their votes; a recount was called for but went unheeded. Thus, the motion did not carry.

Bernard Lambert repeated his call for volunteers from each block of the neighborhood to bring traffic and parking problems to his attention. He may be reached by email at bmjl1218@gmail.com or by phone at 267-694-9080.

Julie Stapleton-Carroll offered a brief update on Germantown's ongoing campaign to deal with absentee landlord, Emanuel Freeman. She invited support from WCGN.

Members and friends were encouraged to attend an "open house" session on June 18th, where the Philadelphia City Planning Commission will present its final draft of the "Philadelphia 2035" Upper Northwest District Plan. Two sessions will be held, one from 3:30 to 5:00pm, the other from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Both are at Lovett Library and Park, Germantown Avenue and Sedgwick Street. Following this presentation, the plan will be held open for public comment for several months.

The meeting was adjourned about 5:45.

Respectfully submitted,
--Russell Fulton, Secretary