

**MINUTES**  
**WEST CENTRAL GERMANTOWN NEIGHBORS**  
**BUSINESS MEETING, MAY 30, 2022**

*131 West Walnut Lane*

In the interest of keeping the business meeting short during WCGN's first potluck since January of 2020, the agenda was kept brief.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at about 5:15 PM, Marjorie Russell, President, presiding. She introduced herself and all the other Board members: Luke Smith (not in attendance) – VP1; Suzanne Ponsen – VP2; Russell Fulton – Secretary and Chair of the History and Heritage Committee; Johan de Jong – Treasurer; Bob Lane and Massoud Mohadjeri – Co-Chairs of the Zoning Committee; and Roberta Moore – Community Engagement Committee Chair. Marjorie especially thanked Roberta and Suzanne for their expert organization of this Memorial Day Picnic, which was attended by approximately 130 people. She also expressed appreciation to the Smith family for making their yard available.

**STATE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Marjorie summarized WCGN's accomplishments during Covid:

**Rezoning Task Force:** In order to provide a response to the City Planning Commission's proposed rezoning of our part of the city, this group carried out a monumentally thorough study of all the properties within WCGN's boundaries -- looking at how each is currently zoned, how that differs from the city's proposed zoning, and then indicating where WCGN differs from the City's proposal and why. The results of this study are now in the hands of Councilperson Cindy Bass, who has promised she will include our changes when she presents the legislation to City Council.

**Block Representatives:** Thanks to Suzanne, WCGN is setting up a system of block representatives in order for WCGN to better connect with all of its residents, similar to "block captains", except that a representative for a particular block would not have to actually live on that block, as long as they are nearby.

**Community Engagement Committee:** Although until now we have not had social gatherings per se since the January 2020 potluck, Roberta's committee did hold a successful yard sale last summer in cooperation with Christ Church and St Michael's bringing in about \$1300. It also organized 2 spring cleanups that coordinated with the City, supported a new neighborhood book group, and is initiating a story-recording project.

**Zoning Committee:** Since the beginning of the pandemic, the zoning committee has had to hold virtual RCO meetings rather than in person. Moreover, there has been a turnover in chairmanship, with Luke Smith stepping away after 10 years of excellent service in that role and Bob Lane and Massoud Mohadjeri taking the reins as Co-Chairs. It has been a challenging time, and one outcome of our struggles to adapt to on-line meetings and voting is that Bob and Massoud have appointed a task force to look into revising our RCO Meeting Protocols.

**History and Heritage Committee:** Russell Fulton is chairing this new committee, which has many ambitious goals, including educating ourselves about historic preservation and exploring how best to protect the historic features of our neighborhood.

**Garden Committee:** This loose group established and now maintains the orchard and garden at the Tulpehocken Station of the Chestnut Hill West Line. Its chair is Marjorie Russell, but it now has a passionate new member (Anastasia Alexandrin), who has expanded and completely revitalized the pollinator beds, and is going on to learn about orchard maintenance.

**Follow-up:** Meeting attendees were encouraged to follow up on the interest surveys they filled out when they arrived at the picnic by chatting with committee chairs after the meeting, adding to their survey responses, and/or emailing the Board.

It was mentioned that at the next business meeting, Wednesday, October 26, at 8pm, election of officers will be held; a nominating committee will be preparing a slate over the summer and will present it in the September newsletter.

## **BYLAWS**

The proposed amendments of the Bylaws were the next item on the agenda. Johan explained the process and reasons for the amendments. He mentioned that the

adoption of the amendments requires two steps. In the first step, the proposed amendments were reviewed and discussed at the General Membership meeting in the spring. Now, in the second step, they needed to be voted on at a second General Membership meeting, requiring a 2/3 affirmative vote of attending members to be adopted.

The main reason for the proposed amendments is that WCGN is legally required to apply to the IRS for official recognition of its tax-exempt status. This requires that the Bylaws contain certain provisions mandated by the IRS. While we are not aiming to overhaul the entire Bylaws at this time, the Board has also proposed to correct a few errors, add a standard provision, and bring the Bylaws into conformity with our practice.

Johan described briefly each of the proposed amendments. They were then put to a vote in their entirety and adopted by the membership in attendance.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

After a brief Q and A, the meeting was adjourned well before 6pm.