

## Minutes of WCGN General Membership Zoom Meeting January 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Attendees: Suzanne Ponsen, Bob Lane, Eve Gentieu , Julie Stapleton Carroll, Marge Russell, Russell Fulton, Mike Ramos, Yvonne Haskins, Regina Robinson, Hakeem Abdul Azeez, Roberta Moore, Luke Smith and Connie Winters

The minutes of the General Meeting were approved.

Johan's Treasurer's report was approved.

Our 501C3 status was approved in December.

There are two different funds to which you can designate your donation to WCGN – the General Fund and the Preservation Fund.

The Board approved the \$5000 contract with The Keeping Society and Oscar Beisert to prepare necessary documentation and forms for the nomination of the Germantown Avenue Historic District to the Historical Commission. \$2500 has been paid to date.

So far this fiscal year we have raised \$3100 for the Preservation Fund and \$700 for the General Fund.

The Zoning report was submitted by Bob Lane.

131 West Walnut Lane's variance was approved by the ZBA with provisos.

Meetings of the Zoning Committee continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

The WCGN Zoning Protocols Task Force continues to meet.

A report from the Town Hall Task Force was given by Yvonne Haskins and Julie Stapleton Carroll.

Cindy Bass has announced a second meeting with the proposed developer for Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required by February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

It was suggested that we put out a newsflash about the upcoming meeting to be held by Councilwoman Bass. It was suggested that the newsflash contain a link to the 1950's Nomination of Town Hall.

It was suggested that Julie request a meeting with Cindy before the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The next meeting for the Town Hall task force is Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Yvonne filed a Right to Know request with PIDC and received a letter back stating that they will respond within 30 days.

Yvonne stated that PIDC is not exempt and IS subject to the Right to Know law.

Suzanne reported on the Zoning Task Force's efforts and progress to date.

The new zoning maps are being finalized by City Planning and will be presented to Cindy Mid-February.

We will need to pressure Cindy to introduce the legislation. When it is introduced it goes to the Rules Committee and there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Roberta Moore identified the dates for the Memorial Days Picnic (May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023).  
And our annual yard sale (Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023) A location for both will be announced.

Suzanne reported on her efforts to formalize the Block Liaison Program. She has recruited Sean Morris and Diane Rubin who live on the 6100 and 5900 blocks of McCallum, respectively. Together they will flesh out the role of the individual block liaison which could include welcoming new neighbors, encouraging them to join WCGN, alerting WCGN to postings of permits on properties, etc.

Marge reported on the Garden Committee progress. There are several workdays coming up for the winter pruning and the spring clean-up.

A Green Spaces group is being initiated by Phil Kane. Several topics and properties were mentioned – the city-owned lot at 6100 Germantown Avenue across from Wyck, the fenced Parks and Recreation owned lots at 177-183 and 185 W. Price St., and the berm area between the unit blocks of W. Walnut Lane and W. Tulpehocken Ave.

Cindy Bass is the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee on City Council.

Russell Fulton reported on the History and Preservation Committee.

The nomination for 5920 Greene Street submitted in Sept of 2021 is finally coming before the Historical Commission on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The owner has already been given two six-month and one three-month extensions.

We will need to have a strong community presence at the Historical Commission's meeting on the 15th.

The Germantown Avenue Historic District nomination with Oscar Beisert will include forty buildings that are not currently on the city register. Oscar will be the expert witness when the nomination is presented to the Historical Commission.

Parker Hall at 5801 Germantown Avenue has been nominated to the Historic Registry and should be approved at the Historical Commission's February 2023 meeting. It was designed by Mantle Fielding.

Russell is working to develop a History and Heritage Committee.

Suzanne asked Luke to transfer any WCGN Zoning Committee records to the current Co-Chairs: Bob and Massoud.

Suzanne made a plea to those in attendance to donate to both the Preservation Fund and the General Fund.

Submitted by Connie Winters, Secretary