

**The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd
Board Meeting May 8, 2018
The Mesivta School of Bala Cynwyd**

Board Attendees

Vanessa Coke Cohen, Michal Frankel, Eric Godfrey, Maxine Goldberg, Anne M. Greenhalgh, Ricky Guerra, Jeremy Harrison, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, David Rosenbaum, Dan Russoniello, Linda Sagman, Jerry Skillings, Shifra Vega, David Yavil, and Merle Zucker

Excused

Courtenay Harris Bond and David Haas

Call to order

President David Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Police Report

Office Merrill reported that motor vehicle accidents are on the rise in the warmer weather. On April 13, a group of teenagers assaulted a pedestrian. The teenagers have juvenile records; they were runaways in foster care. Five out of six were apprehended by Lower Merion Police. Officer Merrill recommended that neighbors call 911 if police services are required.

Executive Reports

President's Report

President David Rosenbaum asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves. Brian McGuire introduced himself as Commissioner of Ward 13; George Manos, as Commissioner of Ward 9; and Mike McKeon, as Commissioner of Ward 3.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Anne M. Greenhalgh thanked Merle Zucker for taking the April minutes and David Rosenbaum for editing them. Randy Myer moved to approve the April minutes; Roger Moog seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Eric Godfrey had no report

Presentations

Presentation by Rabbi Avraham Steinberg, The Principal of Mesivta School of Bala Cynwyd on the topic of How we (The NCBC) can be more inclusive of all members of the community. Rabbi Steinberg invited members of the congregation to speak, including:

- A general contractor who spoke about his work in the community
- The wife of the Rabbi of Lower Merion Synagogue who spoke about her appreciation of the NCBC's work on zoning matters
- A volunteer fire fighter who spoke about how the Fire House has addressed cross-cultural issues and recently recruited 10 new Orthodox fire fighters.
- A small business owner of Fun and Function who spoke about her positive experience building a business and raising a family in Bala Cynwyd.
- A neighbor who grew up here, left, and returned; he says, he "lives, works, and plays" in Bala Cynwyd
- A Rabbi who heads a school for girls and spoke about a positive work and life experience
- A physician who works at CHOP who expressed his positive experience raising his family here.

In response, Commissioner Brian McGuire thanked the Orthodox community for its investment in the community. Neighbors: expressed appreciation of The Neighborhood Club and Bala Cynwyd's heterogeneous community, Independence Day Celebration, and the Beautification Committee; encouraged others to join The Club; shared concern that the Orthodox community is insular and others expressed appreciation of The NCBC's effort to reach out to the community.

121 City Avenue Update/Preliminary Plan– Federal Realty

George W. Broseman and Andrew Bottaro gave a brief recap. Federal Realty tabled the application yet again to address outstanding issues, primarily traffic. Federal Realty updated the traffic study. The builder resubmitted plans to the Township Staff and attended to other details (such as architectural). The plan is by right and meets the Township requirements. Federal Realty will make an additional contribution to the Township for pedestrian improvements, which was sufficient in amount to install a sidewalk on St. Asaph's Road from the edge of the Federal Realty Property to the Conshohocken State Road intersection. Federal has also agreed that construction vehicles will not exit on St. Asaph's Road. George Broseman concluded by saying that Federal Realty has gone above and beyond code requirements and has been a good community partner.

Roger Moog addressed the traffic study. He expressed strong concern that the traffic study did not include studies of the major intersections abutting the project; moreover, Roger admitted that the proposed project was not very big but expressed concern that the traffic created by the development would, along with increased traffic from other developments compound existing traffic. Neighbors echoed concerns about traffic.

In return, George Broseman clarified some points, including:

- The study, which relied upon the Act 209 study, did include a growth factor and goes out to 2030.
- The study does meet the requirements of the township traffic engineer
- Federal Realty would be paying a significant a traffic impact fee that is imposed on this development. This pool of money is intended to go for improvements that would address the traffic concerns.

Roger Moog moved that the NCBC Board urge the Developer extend the deadline in order to conduct a traffic study that would review the four adjacent intersections and provide substantiation for current traffic levels at those intersections. Dan Russoniello seconded the motion. Nine Board Members voted in favor; five opposed. The motion passed.

David Rosenbaum moved that The NCBC take a vote to take no position, to oppose, or abstain the developer's plans. Dan Russoniello seconded the motion. Nine Board Members voted to take no position; five opposed; one abstained. The Board will take no position.

David Rosenbaum moved that The NCBC spend up to \$800 to fund a traffic study to hire David Horner to review and evaluate the revised traffic data presented by Federal Realty and to assist in making a recommendation on how to improve traffic studies generally. Eight Board Members voted in favor; five voted against. The motion passed.

Elected Officials Report

Representative Pam DeLissio gave an update on redistricting reform. The goal is an independent redistricting committee. A bill on merit selection of judges has made it to the House floor. Primary Day is Tuesday, May 15th. Representative DeLissio is opposed to reducing the size of the legislature. She also reported on hearings regarding various levels of gun control.

Commissioner Brian McGuire reported on the process of developing the new zoning code. He recommended that Board Members attend the Building and Planning Meeting on Tuesday, May 30, so that they are familiar with the language of the code and can articulate their view points.

Commissioner George Manos reminded everyone about the block party on Bala Avenue on Saturday, May 12; the date will alternate between Saturday and Sunday each year to accommodate our diverse community.

Standing Committee Reports

Independence Day – Anne M. Greenhalgh proposed a slate of honorees for approval by the board:

- Patriotic Speaker – Michael Malsbary
- Merchant of the Year – Trails End Café
- Citizen of the Year – Jim Hornung Jr
- Inspirational Speaker – Rabbi Avaham Steinberg, the Principal of the Mesivta School of Bala Cynwyd

Randy Myer moved to approve the motion; Merle Zucker seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and slate.

Li Halpern, reminded the Board about the new fundraising opportunities, including the opportunity for vendors to reserve a spot at the celebration and sell their wares.

Federation – Maxine Goldberg & Ricky Guerra moved that the Board support the position paper that was set forth by the Federation. In short, the position paper requests that Lower Merion Township put forth a request for proposal to hire a consultant who will create a lighting ordinance. David Rosenbaum expressed concern about the tone of the Federation position paper and indicated that he did not believe that we had enough information to make a recommendation on how the Planning Department should prioritize its resources. Dan Russoniello seconded the motion. 10 Board members voted in favor of the motion; one opposed; and one abstained. The motion passed.

Eric Godfrey moved to adjourn. Dan Russoniello seconded the motion. The Board gave the motion unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne M. Greenhalgh, Secretary