

**The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd
Board Meeting May 14th, 2019
The Lower Merion Academy Building**

Board Attendees:

Vanessa Coke-Cohen, Eric Godfrey, Maxine Goldberg, Aaron Gross, David Haas, Richard Lynn, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, David Rosenbaum, Dan Russoniello, Jerry Skillings, and Merle Zucker

Excused:

Courtenay Harris Bond, Michal Frankel, Anne M. Greenhalgh, Linda Sagman, Julia Salinas, and David Yavil

Officials Attending:

Commissioners Brian McGuire, Mike McKeon, and George Manos

Call to order

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

Police Report:

Officer McGowen reported that there were several thefts from cars as a result of leaving cars unlocked. In the warmer weather, doors are left open and bikes are stolen. Vacationers should alert police that they will be away so that the police can increase monitoring of vacant houses.

President's Report:

President David Rosenbaum thanked Nick Sarvalas for providing water bottles at our last meeting.

President Rosenbaum reported that Michal Frankel will be moving to Israel at the end of the summer and leaving our Board.

President Rosenbaum reported that he had discussions with the Township about the sidewalk on the east side of St Asaph's Road adjacent to the Church's property. He reported on an earlier misunderstanding with the Director of Public Works about whether the work on the sidewalk, which was discussed and financed as a part of the approval process for the 121 City Avenue project, was being put out for bids. President Rosenbaum reported that the sidewalk on the west side, where there is a gap, is being put out for bid. President Rosenbaum promised to investigate and possibly present a motion at the next meeting regarding the need to proceed with this project before the 121 City Avenue apartment building becomes occupied.

President Rosenbaum announced an open house at the Kelly Apartment building on May 15, 2019. He will try to go to welcome new prospective residents. There was some discussion about whether Cross Properties has been forth-coming about the number of bedrooms and target tenants (for example, empty nesters as they previously claimed or families with children, which is what the billboard posted during construction suggested). Randy Meyer said that the apartments advertised as three bedroom are really two bedrooms and a den. As an aside, Maxine Goldberg commented that she understands that 35 school age children live at the Athena.

President Rosenbaum reported that he was distributing the NCBC car magnets to residents who joined the NCBC at the highest and second highest levels but that anyone in those categories who did not receive their magnets should contact him.

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Manos reported that the draft minutes for the April 2019 Meeting contained a typo: The word "district" needs to replace the word "history." The Board then moved and unanimously approved the minutes once revised.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Eric Godfrey gave the following report:

- 2017 YTD Financial Activity (January 1, 2019 – May 8, 2019) indicating YTD Net Revenue of \$5,993.52

- 2017 YTD Financial Position (through May 1, 2019) indicating current Total Assets of \$23,042.89 of which \$13,123.56 are temporarily restricted funds.

Vanessa Coke-Cohen moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Dan Russionello seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The question of a sales tax on items sold on our website or at events like July 4th came up for discussion. Most board members thought we should avoid the sale of items that could have tax implications for the NCBC. Li Halpern mentioned that Zazzle might enable the civic to sell products and in a way that addresses the tax issue. Treasurer Eric Godfrey commented that seeking individual and corporate donations is preferable to sales as a way to generate revenue. The board agreed to table the topic until a later date.

July 4th:

Li Halpern reported on the networking event that was held on May 8th at the Cynwyd Club for businesses in the Bala Cynwyd area in order to encourage them to participate as sponsors of the Independence Day Celebration. The owner of Saffron spoke as one who has participated before and will do so again. Several board members attended, including President Rosenbaum.

George Manos will be the Patriotic Speaker. With the business district so important to be in the limelight, President Rosenbaum suggested Terry Foley of the City Avenue Special Services District as Citizen of the Year. In the response, the board considered the merits of nominating someone who is doing his or her job as opposed to volunteering service. At Li Halpern's suggestion, Mr. Foley was nominated as Inspirational Speaker.

Zoning report

The Township will release the latest draft of the new Zoning Code on May 17th. President Rosenbaum hoped to find a way to post the new draft The Neighborhood Club website.

President Rosenbaum reported that there have been two Zoning Hearing decisions on projects that were previously presented to our Board. President Rosenbaum reported that the appeal of 317 Bryn Mawr Ave was granted involving the expansion to accommodate a sick resident. He also reported that the Heckamore project involving the non-confirming decks was also granted. President Rosenbaum noted that the Heckamore petitioner had not contacted neighbors and that, after our meeting, one neighbor did raise an objection. He then coached the neighbor on how to appear at a public meeting raise a concern.

Finally, President Rosenbaum reported that after civic raised objections, the Royal Athena tabled its application and is drafting a less ambitious proposal to go before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Presentation regarding the Transportation Demand Management meeting

Roger Moog reported that the meeting discussion revolved around ways to accommodate traffic without increasing the number of lanes on roadways in the RCA. There are different paths to achieve this using signals, carpooling, parking restrictions, staggered work hours, etc. Lowering of future permissible building size

expansions (FARS) within the applicable zoning ordinance may also be necessary to avoid future gridlock at busy intersections during peak period commuting times

Aaron Gross discussed possible new changes to the Zoning Code, including a modification of the name of the highest density zoning category, which is currently scheduled to be a medium density category. Although discussion followed about different ways to increase awareness and involvement regarding the trends in our local business districts, no motions were put forward with regard to zoning issues.

Discussion:

Merle Zucker then reported on behalf of State Representative Pamela DeLissio that she is going to have her 84th Town Hall on the 8th of May at Roxborough Memorial Hospital. The discussion will be about nuclear energy.

David Haas moved to adjourn the meeting; Maxine Goldberg seconded that motion, and the board unanimously agreed. The next meeting is June 11th at The Academy.

