

**The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd (NCBC)
Virtual Board Meeting
May 12, 2020**

Board Attendees

Vanessa Coke Cohen, Eric Godfrey, Maxine Goldberg Anne M. Greenhalgh, Aaron Gross, Ricky Guerra, David Haas, Glenn Manko, Brian McGuire, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, Anita Pepper, David Rosenbaum, Linda Sagman, Jerry Skillings, and Merle Zucker

Absent

Dan Russoniello and Julia Salinas

Officials Attending:

Commissioners Gilda Kramer and Mike McKeon

Call to Order

President Ricky Guerra called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Police Report

Lieutenant John String reported on thefts from vehicles. Township has also witnessed a decline in burglaries. By contrast, the Township has seen an increase in domestic violence. Lieutenant String is one of the contacts for domestic violence cases.

Glenn Manko raised the issue of security at the Royal Athena. Lieutenant String reported an arrest about three weeks ago that correlates with a decrease in crime there.

Roger Moog raised the issue of traffic speed. Lieutenant String encouraged everyone to call Traffic Safety to alert Officers on patrol.

Representative Pamela DeLissio

Representative DeLissio reported that the Governor is reopening the State as he closed it— incrementally. Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties will be among the last to open.

She also reported that the County Board of Elections is consolidating voting. The polling places are being reduced by 60%. The County has received over 6,000 mail-in ballot applications. The deadline for applying is May 26th. Ballots should be out shortly. Lower Merion Township is leading the way across the County. Representative DeLissio added that the primary is a dress rehearsal for November.

President's Announcement

President Ricky Guerra gave a number of announcements; he

- Encouraged everyone to complete the 2020 census
- Echoed Representative DeLissio's encouragement to register to vote by mail
- Reported that he has received some complaints about Cross Properties
- Plans to invite a School District Representative to our meeting next month
- Added that The Club may host a parade of cars for the Independence Day Celebration

Treasurer's Report

Eric Godfrey reported:

- 2020 YTD Statement of Financial Activity (January 1, 2020 – May 11, 2020) indicating YTD Net Revenue of **\$1,787.76**
- 2020 YTD Financial Position (through May 11, 2020) indicating current Total Assets of **\$20,611.55** of which \$13,134.52 are temporarily restricted funds.

Glenn Manko moved to approve the May Treasurer's Report. Maxine Goldberg seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Anne M. Greenhalgh presented the April 2020 minutes for review and approval.

Randy Myer moved to approve the motion. Brian McGuire seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

PRESENTATION – ONE BALA PLAZA (VARIANCE) – May 14, 2020 HEARING BEFORE ZONING HEARING BOARD

Al Fuscaldo, Zoning Counsel, and David Cremer, Architect, and Janet Giuliani from Tishman Speyer propose the installation of a logo and sign for Philadelphia Insurance Companies on the top of a four story building on One Bala Plaza.

The applicants propose to install tenant signage for Philadelphia Insurance Companies on the top floor of the new entrance addition to include a 2 ft.-10 in. tall decal logo sign and 1 ft.-7 in. tall channel letters and request a variance from Upper Level Corporate Signage §§155-9.8.1.i.i, 9.8.1.ii & 9.8.1.v to allow the decal logo and channel letters to be mounted at 52.7 feet in height and/or a variance from Flush Mounted Signage §§155-9.8.1.e.i & 9.8.1.e.iii to allow the decal logo and channel letters to exceed 65 sq. ft. in sign area and exceed the maximum 20 ft. sign mounting height requirement.

Mounting the decal logo and channel letters requires three variances. The first variance puts the name and logo together. The second variance asks for a decal rather than a logo. The third, and most concerning for President Guerra, allows the sign to go on a building that is less than 100 feet tall. Flush mounting requires two variances. David Rosenbaum commented that both variances are trivial.

David Rosenbaum moved that the Club take no position on the application. Brian McGuire seconded the motion. 10 directors voted in favor; 3 against. The motion passed.

Standing Committee Report

Nomination Committee, David Rosenbaum introduced Edwin Altman, a candidate for Treasurer, to the Board. He thanked Eric Godfrey for his work in the transition process.

David Rosenbaum moved to approve the Edwin Altman as Treasurer. Roger Moog seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

Federation, Maxine Goldberg reported that the Federation has drafted a request to the School District to try to improve communication with the Civics. The Federation also discussed the lights for the soccer field. Penn Wynne is concerned about the loss of open space for modular units and parking. She also reported that Lower Merion School Board Directors and Commissioners, along with Narberth Borough officials, are planning to try and hold a video Intergovernmental meeting on Wednesday, May 27th starting at 7 pm.

Elected Officials Report

Commissioner Gilda Kramer reported on the COVID-19 pandemic. Lower Merion Township has reported 432 confirmed cases and 46 deaths. Sixteen cases have been confirmed in Narberth. The numbers are decreasing; nonetheless, social distancing must continue until wide-spread testing and treatment are available. She strongly recommended that individuals using public parks and trails use masks.

On May 13th, the Township will discuss a HUD grant program to help individuals and businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19. Some funding is proposed to go to small businesses, for mortgage and rent assistance, and to relieve food insecurity. The Narberth Food Bank has seen a tripling of demand.

If residents have not already done so, they should immediately apply for a vote by mail ballot at votespa.com. Polling locations are being consolidated at schools, and the County's voter services web-site will show new polling places for the primary.

Commissioner Kramer also reported that the deadline to pay Township County taxes without penalty has been extended to August 3, 2020.

Commissioner Mike McKeon reported on a grant called Monto-Strong of 5M for small businesses in the first round on May 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. He mentioned that a Traffic Island in College Park is up for tending. Cynwyd Trail Phase II is going forward, as is the East Levering Mill road project. He mentioned the search for a long-term location for Welsh Valley Middle School buses is still underway. He reported that Public Works will be closed through June 4, 2020 and that no Public Works employees have tested positive for COVID-19. The Township Commissioners are meeting remotely.

Old Business

Jerry Skillings reported on restricted funds for Bala Cynwyd Playground by West Laurel Hill. Connective donated money for Bala Avenue beautification. Jerry Skillings recommended that the Board seek a resolution for restricted funds. Jerry Skillings recommended that The Board return the funds to West Laurel Hill Cemetery. Bala Connective funds need repurposing according to the original wishes. President Guerra tabled the issue until the next Board meeting.

Adjourn

David Rosenbaum moved to adjourn the meeting. Maxine Goldberg seconded the motion. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

The next meeting is June 9, 2020. The meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Greenhalgh, Secretary