

The Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd (NCBC)
Zoom Board Meeting
February 7, 2023

Board Attendees

Aaron Gross, Jim Remsen, Vanesse Coke Cohen, Maxine Goldberg, Jason Landau Goodman, Randy Meyer, Anne M. Greenhalgh, Brian McGuire, Roger Moog, Nielufar Varjavand, Merle Zucker, Kay Sickles.

Absent:

Dan Russoniello, Linda Sagman, Ricky Guerra, David Haas, Frederic Goldfein, Linda Tasker, Anita Pepper.

Officials Attending:

Commissioners David McComb, Gilda Kramer, and Mike McKeon.

Call to Order

President Aaron Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Police Report

Sergeant Ed Sarama gave the Police Report. Recently in the Township, we had a simple assault (domestic violence) at the Sunoco on City Ave. There was also a burglary at the 555 Building, as well as a few retail thefts. Graffiti is an issue in some parts of the Township, but not in Bala Cynwyd. The Sergeant asked us to let people know to report it if they see any. The Department posts its Policy Manual and its Annual Report on the Township's website as well as a report describing any crime-related incidents affecting any of the specific areas (tabs) within Lower Merion. See <https://www.lowermerion.org/departments/police-department>

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Commissioner Gilda Kramer—emphasized the importance of the upcoming election. She encouraged people to vote my mail.

In particular, on the County level, Montgomery County will have two open Commissioner seats. One opening is due to Governor Shapiro's appointment of Val Arkoosh as Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth. Jamila Winder was appointed to fill the space temporarily. The second opening is due to Ken Lawrence's decision not to run for another term. Also on the ballot:

Supreme Court
Superior Court
Commonwealth Court

Court of Common Pleas

Controller

Prothonotary

Register of wills

Clerk of Court

Sheriff

District Attorney

Coroner

Treasurer

Recorder of Deeds

all odd numbered commissioner wards are up for election (3 and 9 included).

5 School Board Director positions

Gilda Kramer also reported that she has been working with the Township staff to create a development plan for Bala Ave. The people involved in the planning are hoping to start having events soon and to develop an arts and culture presence.

Commissioner David McComb – reported that the Health Committee filmed a PSA cautioning people that Fentanyl has been found in every kind of street drug being sold in our Township. This PSA is running on the cable channel. The Township is also providing Narcan training and had one on Feb 13, 2023.

The Police committee conducted a hearing on the traffic stop that ended with the motorist getting tasered. The meeting was well-attended and the process of reviewing this incident is ongoing.

There was also a discussion regarding 13 S. Asaph's efforts to expand the footprint of the dwelling. The Township is involved and the Neighborhood Club has generally been supportive, though the neighbors of the property are concerned about encroachment.

Commissioner Mike McKeon— reported that the Township is working on an ordinance to control gun shops in the township. It looks as though there are some Pa. court decisions that would allow the municipality to regulate the activity more than the Township initially thought was possible.

President's Report

President Aaron Gross – reported that we now have a Treasurer, Laura Edelstein. However, she has not had sufficient time to prepare the Treasurer's Report, and thus the Board decided we would have a truncated meeting tonight. Laura hopes to finish the Treasurer's Report in the next two weeks.

Aaron also reported that our email is now working! info@balacynwyd.org. If people want email addresses, let Aaron know and he will create one for you.

Treasurer's Report: As noted above, we did not have a Treasurer's Report at the meeting.

Secretary's Report

Anne M. Greenhalgh – presented the January 2023 minutes. Vanessa Coke Cohen corrected the number of members that had been reported and also corrected that Pam DeLissio is the former Representative. Kay Sickles abstained (because of her absence in January). The Board gave its approval to the January 2022 minutes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Vanessa Coke Cohen reported that the website was left unattended by the last people in charge of it and thus, the website does not reflect the entire membership. They are working on the situation and it should be correct soon. She also reported that they are hoping to have more vendors for the Farmer's Market this season.

She also reported that our first social event will be occurring on March 22 at 7 pm. Jim Remson will be giving a talk that evening, to be followed that Sunday with a complimentary walking tour. Jason will promote the event on social media.

Ad Hoc City Avenue – Roger Moog encouraged Township Commissioners to keep the channels of communication open, especially regarding discussions about the roundabout.

Zoning Report – Aaron Gross reported that demo of Lord & Taylor's is imminent and that we recognize this construction as an item of importance to us due to the dust, noise, traffic and annoyance. This demo had already been approved and they are waiting for the permit. Keystone and 111 Hanover will follow. No activity at 123 Bala Plaza (Philadelphia Insurance property and the Saks Property). There are some concerns regarding the participation of outside (foreign) investors.

He also reported that the Township has stopped emailing "interested parties" on matters related to Township activity.

Federation – Maxine Goldberg reported they are looking for space to hold in person meetings for the Lower Merion Community Watch. March 9 is the annual meeting for Federated Civic Associations.

The Ardmore Civic Association is concerned regarding the application for a zoning variance by Infinity of Ardmore. Whatever zoning precedence this decision sets is salient for our district because we have the Mini of the Mainline, which owns the house that is next door to their property and would then have a similar opportunity for expansion.

Public Service and Improvement – Gilda reported that expect our plastic bag ordinance to pass in the next couple of months. Our township would also require people to pay for bags, 10 cents each.

Newsletter - **Jim Remson** reported that they are gearing up for the summer issue. He is soliciting for stories, which need to come in April, to get the issue out in May. He will be publishing information regarding Bala Walks, an update on some of the construction projects, a directory of organizations, and information about the new Ward map.

Anne M. Greenhalgh reminded everyone that if there are nominations for citizen or merchant of the year for July 4th, let her know.

Bala Walks, Discussion of Various Options for East Levering Mill Road

Bala walks event is a citizen group for people who live along East Levering Mill Rd. and they have been dealing with concerns about people walking along streets that don't have sidewalks. The township has budgeted capital funds for installation of sidewalks along East Levering Mill Road between Belmont Avenue and Conshohocken State Road. A public meeting hosted by Commissioner McComb has been set for March 14 to discuss alternative plans.

Adjourn

The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Sickles Secretary