

**SEPTEMBER 2023 MONTHLY MEETING OF  
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD  
LEVERING MILL TRIBUTE HOUSE & ZOOM  
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538  
Password: 850924  
September 05, 2023**

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Attendance: C. Aaron Gross, Kay Sickles, Brian McGuire, Dave McComb, Jim Remsen, , Roger Moog, Bryan Fenstermacher, Gilda Kramer, Maxine Goldberg, Merle Zucker, Vanessa Coke Cohen, Nielufar Varjavand, Frederic Goldfein.

Community attendees: Bill Krebs, Fay Wright, Nancy Goldman, Marion Williams, Sarah Dufendach, Harry Conry, Elizabeth M.

7:45 pm **CALL TO ORDER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**, C. Aaron Gross

7:35 pm **POLICE REPORT:** No officer in attendance.

7:55 pm **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT**, Commissioners Mike McKeon (absent): Report provided. There were some stolen cars in his area.

David McComb: He attended the de-escalation training, which entailed virtual reality and live training. The Lower Merion Police are reaching out to many groups in the community to increase the communication flow. They are operating with a lot of vacancies and still recruiting. Mike McGraf is retiring and the department is conducting a Nationwide search.

Litigation has already been filed against the Township to strike down the new ordinance re: limitations on home-based gun businesses. The case is pending in CCP Court in Montgomery County.

He also reported there are new speed bumps on North Latches Lane.

Discussions are under way for the City Ave. Master Plan and a meeting regarding the Landscape Master Plan would be held Sept. 14, 2023 at One Belmont Plaza.

Gilda Kramer: Commissioner Kramer also attended police training for the Township Police and was extremely impressed. She reported that the first event for the Bala Ave. Avenue of the Arts would be September 10, 1-4 pm and she encouraged all to attend and to spread the word.

Board of Commissioners has been in recess. They have been meeting behind the scenes and the budget workshop is tomorrow. Limitations on single use plastic bags going into effect January 2024.

There is a meeting Oct. 16, 2023 6-8 pm to introduce sustainability plan to the community.

Rep. Mary Jo Daley: absent.

8:15 pm **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

President's Report, C. Aaron Gross:

Sidewalks: Members of Bala Walks expressed concern about the process. Aaron circulated the plans today. Plans are out for bids and hoping to have shovels out this Fall (2023), subject to storm drainage issue resolution.

Aaron reported that he wants to conduct a survey of where we think we need crossings in the neighborhood.

Grants and Youth Involvement: Township is awarding grants to non-profits. The NCBC will brainstorm writing a grant proposal. Many ideas were discussed.

Membership Growth:

Business Growth and Newsletter: We have 2 new restaurants on Bala Ave. We discussed ways to direct community attention to new businesses and discussed planning announcements in the newsletter.

Environmental: Efforts by Marion Williams and Charles Kline Looking to restart tree tenders group. The July 4<sup>th</sup> table was very successful. They collected orders for 10 trees, which they will plant in November. Wants to continue education through social media. Have not yet created a Facebook page. Would like the club to create the content. There are other tree tenders in the Township. Other projects are slated: forming partnerships with local businesses.

Website and marketing: Terminated the existing vendor but the website is online because we had paid for the service. Aaron is communicating with a potential new vendor.

Budget Planning: October will be our budget planning meeting. December we will vote on the budget. Our bank account is in the black by about \$12,000. July 4<sup>th</sup> event was a cash positive event.

Vacancies: We have 2 vacancies. One current (Linda Tasker's resignation) and Ricky Gurra will not be on the Board after the new year.

Aaron reported that PennDot pushed off the St. Asaph's round-about until 2027.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was not present. See above.

Secretary's Report: Delayed due to

8:45 pm **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Membership: Vanessa Coke Cohen

Vanessa reported that we do not have new news. Summer is generally a slow time. We hit our membership revenue line item. We want to push for renewal, but at the same time, track the multiple ways we request renewal.

Zoning, Aaron Gross:

Merion Mercy Academy is changing fields from grass to turf. The field is within the set back. They are changing nothing and it will improve storm water management. Discussion of environmental impact of turf. The NCBC will seek some positive environmental/landscaping concessions to balance out negative impact of turf.

Newsletter: November publication. Discussion regarding the content.

Ad Hoc City Ave. District Master Plan, Roger Moog:

City Ave that the bridge over the SEPTA Cynwyd Rail Line is being rebuilt and traffic may be diverted to other local roads.

9:25 pm **OLD BUSINESS**

The project that is closest to being ready to start is 111 Presidential, which could restart in January 2024. The Lord & Taylor demolition should have already happened but they are still working on the exterior.

Cross Properties: The Township approved the extension for the permit.

9:35 pm **NEW BUSINESS:**

We will be holding a meet and greet for candidates for Commissioner at the Fire Station on October 15.

9:45 pm **ADJOURN**

Next meeting: **October 17, 2023**, 7:30 p.m., Levering Mill Tribute House and Zoom