MINUTES
JANUARY 2025 MONTHLY MEETING + ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION & ZOOM
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538
Password: 850924
January 7, 2025

Attendance: Kay Sickles (President), Vanessa Coke Cohen (Vice-President), Jason Landau Goodman (Secretary), Marion Williams (Treasurer), C. Aaron Gross (Past President), Anne Greenhalgh, Maxine Goldberg, Joseph Hirsch, Margaret Hunting, Bill Krebs, Brian McGuire, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, Mark Prudente, Dan Russionello, Sandy Kornhauser, Jim Remsen, Juan Rodríguez, Merle Zucker

Absent: David Haas (Solicitor)

Public Officials in Attendance: Commissioner Gilda Kramer, Commissioner Lou Rossman

CALL TO ORDER at 7:34pm
ANNOUNCEMENTS, Kay Sickles

POLICE REPORT: Lieutenant Edward Sarama

Lieutenant Sarama with LMPD shared that there will be an active shooter drill at Waldron Mercy Academy on January 17, 2025. He reminded attendees that home burglaries are happening and to consider security systems.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Commissioner Kramer: Capital Improvement Plan underway. The first tax increase is coming in 14 years to LM. Two items for conditional use are coming up: Karr Barth building regarding parking and Shot Tec regarding its approval to sell firearms. The Lower Merion budget master plan includes plans for the Cynwyd Station Park in 2025. Lower Merion will hire a Sustainability Coordinator in addition to the Sustainability Manager.

Commissioner Rossman: Discussed the Karr Barth building. Summarized a recent meeting with PennDOT regarding the proposed roundabout.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: AMERICAN LEGION POST 355 — VANDIVER-MOYLAN

Vada Z. Conant, Commander of the Vandiver-Moylan American Legion Post 355, and Tom Shallow, also with the post, shared information on the history of the post and the planned rehabilitation for a trail along the creek. They requested that NCBC support naming the rehabilitated trail the Bill Swyer Trail. Bill Swyer was honored by NCBC as Citizen of the Year in 2008. The representatives from the post requested NCBC issue a letter of support on NCBC's letterhead.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report, Marion Williams

Marion presented information regarding Fiscal Year 2024, including the statement of activities. The report included information on NCBC's July 4th celebration and membership. In total, NCBC received approximately $38,000 and spent about $44,000. Report is attached. Board members discussed expected income and costs for Fiscal Year 2025, including about increasing individual, family, and business memberships and reducing expenses. Summary of key upcoming expenses including insurance, the PO Box, and Constant Contact.

President's Report, Kay Sickles

Kay shared that she created and delivered welcome packages to new residents. There was a proposed event for a pancake breakfast coordinated with Mark. Kay highlighted the important work of bringing the July 4th event together. Meeting at Jim's home for those interested in helping plan the event for 2025 this coming Thursday.

Aaron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Brian. Unanimously approved.

Aaron made a motion to accept the Treasurer's proposed budget. Seconded by Brian. Unanimously approved.

Secretary, Jason Landau Goodman

Jason made a motion to adopt the December meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Kay. Unanimously adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership, Vanessa Coke-Cohen

Vanessa shared that we have about 50 members as of the start of the year, and we had about 70 at this time last year, but the trifold has not gone out yet. There will be eblasts and social media posts regarding membership. Suggestion to have QR codes to join NCBC at events.

NEW BUSINESS

Kay and others will meet with the City Avenue District and BMW of the Main Line to discuss beautification of Bala Avenue.

Further discussion took place regarding the proposed roundabout at St. Asaph's Road and Belmont Avenue. Board members discussed a potential motion to take a position on the roundabout. No action on an official position of NCBC was taken at this meeting.

Bethany Belkowski of State Representative Mary Jo Daley's office shared information on the bills that the Representative is sponsoring in the legislative new session.

Aaron made a motion to send a letter of support to Lower Merion Township for the naming of the trail at Gully Run Park the Bill Swyer Trail. Roger seconded the motion. Anne spoke in favor. Unanimously adopted. Kay will draft and send the letter.

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23pm.