MINUTES
APRIL 2025 MONTHLY MEETING
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION & ZOOM
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538
Password: 850924
April 1, 2025
7:30pm

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

Absent: Kay Sickles (President), C. Aaron Gross (Past President), David Haas (Solicitor), Margaret Hunting

Public Officials in Attendance: Commissioner Gilda Kramer, Commissioner Jeremiah Woodring

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00pm
ANNOUNCEMENTS, Vanessa Coke-Cohen

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Commissioner Kramer: Redistricting for Lower Merion Township is now in effect. Randy asked why is the township involved in eruv. Commissioner Kramer responded that technically the Township must lease some property for the eruv to be installed and now expanded — for a narrow purpose of wire in a right spot. Mark asked about updates on Lower Merion Township pool access for the upcoming summer season, given the closure of the Ardmore pool. Commissioner Kramer shared that this year no non-residents of the Township (except Narberth) will be able to use the Belmont Hills Pool, given concerns with overcrowding and that the commissioners are looking into potential options that are closer to Ardmore for the residents there. Vanessa asked if the park renovations in Lower Merion might install splash pads, to which Commissioner Kramer responded with discussing the Ardmore Park renovation. Commissioner Kramer noted there is a planning process underway for the renovation of General Wayne playground, and next year Bala Playground is slated for planning. Commissioner Kramer suggested residents form a working group to get ideas of what they may want in the future at Bala Playground by early next year so the community can be ready to

DRAFT

engage in discussions with the Township. Bala Playground would be budgeted for the 2026 year, so a group should be encouraged to form by fall 2025.

Randy asked about the dedication of the plaque at the Bala Playground pavilion, and Dan responded that it is being reviewed for dedication this year.

A question from the public was asked about who was the requester for the eruv expansion, and it was identified that it is the Eruv of Lower Merion, Inc.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report, from Kay Sickles as presented by Vanessa Coke-Cohen
Paloma Vila will return to NCBC to present at next month's meeting. Vanessa shared that Kay requested suggestions for speakers should be shared with her so that they can be discussed with the Executive Committee and the potential speakers can be reached out to in advance. Vanessa noted that Kay wanted to note that June is last meeting before summer break. Vanessa passed on that Kay had received a note from Chris Leswing of Lower Merion Township about the going ons in Bala Cynwyd, including that a permit has been issued to begin work on the 200 Bala Avenue site, with groundbreaking this spring, and that a plan for Bala Village is currently on pause until the new building goes up to understand changing traffic patterns. Additionally noted, is that Lower Merion Township plans to focus on the Rock Hill Road corridor, and that there is a vape shop planned for opening on Bala Avenue.

Treasurer's Report, Marion Williams
Marion shared that there is not currently a lot of activity, but there will be next month heading into more July 4th planning. She shared that July 4th vendor invoices are coming in now, and that more memberships need to come in as well. Marion noted that member trifolds are now in the Bala Cynwyd Library. Marion suggested that NCBC move from PayPal to process memberships and other donations to Zeffy, a platform with no transaction fees. Marion additionally noted that Zeffy could also replace Constant Contact which would reduce costs. For these tasks, Marion shared that NCBC may need to work with the website developer for seamless upgrades for donations, sponsorships, communications, and membership systems to Zeffy.

Secretary's Report, Jason Landau Goodman
Jason made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Randy seconded. Unanimously approved with Dan and Vanessa abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federation of Civic Associations, Sandy Kornhauser

DRAFT

Sandy provided an update on activities of the Federation of Civics.

Environmental Committee/Tree Tenders, Marion Williams

Marion highlighted the "Homeowner Tree Care 101" event by the committee to take place on April 23rd with Bartlett, and asked NCBC members to share. Marion shared that at the last Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners meeting, the topic of a climate action plan was discussed with many residents also urging action on a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers. Marion reflected that if Kay is asking for presentations at future NCBC meetings, that this topic would be an excellent one to consider. Marion suggested that perhaps NCBC could weigh in on the issue. It was asked if the Environmental Committee on the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners provided a recommendation. Commissioner Kramer responded that yes, the committee did so a year ago and has been working internally since to develop a proposal, but that there is some resistance from different areas though support remains for something to happen.

Zoning/Public Service and Improvement Committee, Aaron Gross and Brian McGuire

Brian discussed the 19-21 Bala Avenue project, noting that Aaron, Kay, and Brian met with the owner and that Brain went to the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners Planning Committee meeting last night and shared that having this project done right matters to the Bala Cynwyd community. Vanessa suggested that perhaps NCBC could also invite representatives from the project to present at a future meeting, and Brian noted that this development would be going up quickly. Merle asked about determinations on building demolition, and Brian responded that those decisions are governed by the Township building code. Jason asked if anything was currently needed from the NCBC Board, and Brian suggested that while not right now, perhaps next month.

JULY 4TH COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim shared that the team is currently in the fundraising stage which should finish up in the next month. Jim noted that information on July 4th will be published in the newsletter featuring current event donors, and that the deadline for inclusion on that list would be early May.

Anne shared that through foundational efforts there is already $5,000 received in checks, which is a nice start. She encouraged continue outreach for donations and that she would be in touch with teams on the committee. Vanessa inquired about a primary spreadsheet for outreach to donors, particularly businesses, that could be shared with the NCBC Board so that duplication in requests could be avoided — Marion offered to send it.

DRAFT

Anne continued with a call to finalize nominations for honorees at July 4th this year, and Vanessa agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Roger shared that after reviewing the March 2025 minutes, he wanted to ask about the process for a final letter to be sent. David responded about the additional information to be considered for inclusion in a final letter. It was determined that Jason, Joe, and Dan will work with Roger on final language, and that a final version can circulate through the Executive Committee and full NCBC Board before being sent.

Juan discussed an upcoming event opportunity to participate and do outreach at the Landing Kitchen's Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th. The Board discussed that the event can be promoted by NCBC online and that the event can be a positive outreach moment in the community.

Bill raised concerns about the influx of new apartment units in Bala Cynwyd and how NCBC can provide outreach to them to get involved with the civic association. Juan shared how management of some buildings were very receptive to help with promoting the NCBC movie night recently, and that they have an incentive to highlight positive happenings in the local community of their residents.

Public comment was shared about frustration with constant construction along Montgomery Avenue.

Marion commented on adding new ways to promote NCBC activities online through social media and emails. There was a discussion on ways to improve current processes to get the word out about news and events.

Jason shared news on the sudden passing of Eddy Herskovitz, the longtime owner of Main Line Auto on Bala Avenue. He also shared that after 35 years the Boys Connection has closed on Montgomery Avenue, owned by Robin Freedman. Jason suggested consideration of NCBC recognizing them in an appropriate time.

Vanessa moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm.

DRAFT