MINUTES
JUNE 2025 MONTHLY MEETING
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION & ZOOM
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538
Password: 850924
June 3, 2025
7:30pm

Attendance: Kay Sickles (President), Jason Landau Goodman (Secretary), Marion Williams (Treasurer), Anne Greenhalgh, Joseph Hirsch, Margaret Hunting, Sandy Kornhauser, Bill Krebs, Brian McGuire, Roger Moog, Mark Prudente, Jim Remsen, Juan Rodríguez, Merle Zucker

Absent: Vanessa Coke Cohen (Vice-President), C. Aaron Gross (Past President), David Haas (Solicitor), Maxine Goldberg, Randy Myer, Dan Russionello

Public Officials in Attendance: Commissioner Gilda Kramer, Commission Lou Rossman, Commissioner Jeremiah Woodring, Treasurer Sam Badenbaum, Sustainability Manager Paloma Vila

CALL TO ORDER
ANNOUNCEMENTS, Kay Sickles

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Commissioner Rossman shared that progress is being made on the Bryant Apartments. He also noted that there is an effort for securing a Main Street Matters designation by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Commissioner Rossman added an update that the Cynwyd Trail extension is happening, and that SEPTA is involved. He also reported out on the recent rallies for SEPTA funding that have taken place in Bryn Mawr and Narberth, and that the Lower Merion Commissioners voted on a resolution supporting state funding for SEPTA last month. Commissioner Rossman concluded by sharing that a new restaurant is planning to open at Pencoyd Landing.

Merle asked about what is being done in response to the near-constant construction and re-paving on Montgomery Avenue. Commissioner Rossman shared that the utilities AQUA and PECO must improve their communication about their planned improvements, and that hopefully the activities and patching will be done by the end of the summer.

Commissioner Rossman additionally added that a Hyatt Hotel, with parking and restaurants, is being proposed for Bala Three, and that there is no current update about the proposed roundabout.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Paloma Vila on Sustainability in Lower Merion

Paloma summarized the recent developments on advancing sustainability within Lower Merion Township, including a completed Sustainability Plan and strategically taking on projects that were outlined in the plan. She shared that the Lower Merion website has a great deal of information on projects of the Sustainability Office, including the Sustainability Ambassadors program, the compositing pilot program, recycling guides, free street tree program, progress on piloting new electric landscape equipment with the Lower Merion Public Works department, the solar array at Penn Wynne Library and proposals for other sites on Lower Merion Township-owned buildings, and the benchmarking program with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to educate large commercial building owners, as well as condos, apartments, and other businesses on benchmarking energy savings. Anne asked if resources from the Office of Sustainability can be shared at the July 4th Celebration, and a public comment was asked about fire pits in the Township.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Sam Adenbaum on Home Sustainability in Lower Merion

Sam shared a presentation on how residents in Lower Merion can reduce their energy consumption through making their homes more efficient and sourcing from renewable energy.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Nancy Winkler and Deb Robbins on Home Sustainability in Lower Merion

Nancy and Deb shared a presentation about the work of Climate Action Lower Merion (CALM) and on the continued effort to ban gas-powered leaf blowers within the Township.

JULY 4TH COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne thanked Jim for helping build a strong foundation for July 4th Celebration planning. Anne thanked all those involved in the committee's strongest fundraising effort ever made. Anne shared that as of now the committee has about $19,000 in hand, with a potential of $30,000 total if all pledges come in — with the original target being $25,000. Anne noted that the celebration now has a record number of donors at and above the $1,000 level. If it is a nice day outside, there may be up to $5,000 in ticket sales, and so the event is strongly poised to break even this year. Anne thanked Marion for the switch to Zeffy from PayPal to end fees on credit card processing. Anne reminded the Board that getting the pledges in is still important. Anne discussed

updates with the program book and the banners. Anne proposed sharing a spreadsheet with Board members of pledges given and received in order to be efficient in any final requests with supporters. Juan shared that a larger banner is not able to go up over Montgomery Avenue near the Union Fire Association, but it is possible to put up near the field in Bala Cynwyd Park during the celebration itself. Marion urged all final donors to be driven to the NCBC website over dealing with written checks as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental Committee/Tree Tenders, Marion Williams

Marion shared gratitude to Bartlett Tree Experts — Bala Cynwyd for their in-kind assistance with maintenance at the Bala Cynwyd Post Office, including a donation of wood chips. Marion also thanked volunteers for their help, including Margaret, Harriet, and others for the beautification efforts at the post office.

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm.