MINUTES
OCTOBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETING
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION & ZOOM
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538
Password: 850924
October 14, 2025
7:30pm

Attendance: Kay Sickles (President), Vanessa Coke Cohen (Vice-President), Jason Landau Goodman (Secretary), Marion Williams (Treasurer), David Haas (Solicitor), Anne Greenhalgh, Joseph Hirsch, Margaret Hunting, Bill Krebs, Brian McGuire, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, Mark Prudente, Dan Russionello, Jim Remsen, Juan Rodríguez, Merle Zucker

Absent: C. Aaron Gross (Past President), Maxine Goldberg, Sandy Kornhauser

Public Officials + Guests in Attendance: Commissioner Gilda Kramer, Commissioner Lou Rossman, Commissioner Jeremiah Woodring, Lower Merion Township Sustainability Manager Paloma Vila, Bryan Capone, Jillian Dierks, Maria Wells

CALL TO ORDER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay Sickles called the meeting to order at 7:36pm

POLICE REPORT

Lieutenant Michael Keenan shared the latest developments in and around Bala Cynwyd. Lt. Keenan noted recent thefts of cars and items within cars and reminded residents to always lock car doors and take out any valuables or keep them out of sight. He also shared there was a recent home burglary in Bala Cynwyd near City Avenue.

Lt. Keenan also shared information on the recent criminal pursuit that took place in Bala Cynwyd on Friday, October 3rd, which resulted in a shelter-in-place alert and a lockdown of area schools. The pursuit involved a regional response with the Lower Merion Police Department, Philadelphia Police Department, and the FBI, which ended with three suspects in custody without any injuries or casualties. Vanessa thanked the LMPD for their action and inquired what are the best ways for residents to receive notifications in real time of these types of alerts. Lt. Keenan discussed ways to sign up for alerts through the township, and the future use of push alerts to cell phones.

LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM FOR CURBSIDE COMPOSTING IN BALA CYNWYD

Paloma provided a short presentation on the upcoming curbside composting pilot program and encouraged residents who live within the boundaries of the pilot zone to sign up to participate — there are up to 75 spots available. She explained that this program will test the feasibility of picking up compost waste at the doors of residents, including evaluating cost and assessing projected volumes and usage. The pilot program will provide pick up of compost one the regular refuse/recycling day pick up for residents in the zone on a weekly basis.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Commissioner Kramer highlighted the curbside compost program and getting the word out about participation in the program. She shared information on the latest Board of Commissioners meeting in which the proposed gas-powered leaf blower ban ordinance was discussed and modified — with the current version now having a three year partial ban, followed by a full ban starting in 2029. She noted that the proposed ordinance will now come up for a vote by the board to advertise notice on October 22nd. Commissioner Kramer reviewed the issues around the GPLBs including noise, health impacts, and pollution. Marion thanked Commissioner Kramer for her work on the ordinance, encouraged a shorter window of time until a full ban citing the negative health impacts of GPLBs.

Commissioner Woodring also highlighted the proposed GPLB ban, the composting program, and the proposed increase by the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Fund fees given its current operating deficit. Commissioner Woodring noted the upcoming budget workshops open to the public as the Board of Commissioners considers a budget for 2026.

Commissioner Rossman thanked the LMPD for their service regarding the pursuit last week. He then thanked Paloma for the research of her office on the GPLB ordinance. Commissioner Rossman discussed the progress with various development projects in Bala Cynwyd. He also noted the upcoming connection of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail with trails in Philadelphia connecting Bala Cynwyd to the Mann Music Center starting on October 23, 2025. There was a brief discussion on zoning policy and the placement of vape and smoke shops.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW NCBC BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Kay introduced both new proposed candidates for the NCBC Board, for the 2026-2027 term, Jillian Dierks and Bryan Capone. Roger shared that the candidates have been interviewed by the nomination committee, and all members of the committee supported the advancement of both candidates to join the board.

JULY 4TH: 2025 RETROSPECTIVE/2026 PLANNING

Kay thanked Anne for her longtime service to the July 4th celebration in Bala Cynwyd and noted that Anne will be stepping back as the leader of the event in 2026. Anne shared comments on the event and that Bala Cynwyd resident Maria Wells is willing to step up as a coordinate for the event. Maria provided comments on her support for the celebration. Anne noted that the event will still need a formal Chair, and that she will be nearby to help mentor individuals in roles they volunteer for. Anne noted that for 2026 the NCBC board should have a thoughtful discussion on when to have a July 4th celebration given that July 4th is on a Saturday next year and that there will be many events for America's 250th birthday.

EXECUTIVE + COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Report, Kay Sickles
Kay continued the discussion on leadership transitions, noting that with Jim stepping off the board at the end of 2025, he is still willing to help mentor the individual/s who will be willing to take over the compilation of the NCBC newsletters. Kay noted that Jason does not intend to run again for Secretary for 2026, and that board members should consider the role. Kay thanked Juan and Mark for their work organizing a successful NCBC Family Movie Night screening Hook in the Cynwyd Station Park, and shared appreciation to Jim for coordinating the fall newsletter.

Treasurer Report, Marion Williams
Marion shared how 2025 has been a standout year and broke down income and expenses, including the increase in sponsorships for the July 4th celebration. She presented a full financial report and noted that membership dues have decreased this year. A discussion was had on switching to more user-friendly membership platforms and ones that can do automatic renewals going forward, although noting that NCBC membership does not universally use online applications and that improvements to the membership renewal efforts received by check are important to consider. It was noted that as NCBC has more community events, the civic can incentive more electronic engagement and build in membership joining opportunities into those platforms. A discussion then took place on what NCBC community events can take place over the winter and what funding can be dedicated from the budget.

Secretary Report, Jason Landau Goodman
Jason shared that the draft September 2025 minutes have been circulated and following any further feedback, can be adopted by the board before the next monthly meeting.

VOTE ON NEW NCBC BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Kay made a motion to nominate Jillian Dierks to a board member position on the NCBC Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term. Seconded by Anne. Unanimously adopted.

Kay made a motion to nominate Bryan Capone to a board member position on the NCBC Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term. Seconded by Mark. Unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

A board discussion took place on the following topics: appreciating the service of outgoing board members and their long-term knowledge of the civic association, and encouragement for new leaders to advance the organization going forward; securing improved audio and visual equipment for future movie nights; outreach strategies for NCBC membership to condo and apartment residents; the Sutton Terrace fence has been installed; PennDOT will be hosting a meeting on the proposed intersection improvements at St. Asaphs Road and Belmont Avenue; opportunities for NCBC to encourage winter season lights and decoration in the community; information from a recent presentation on proposals for development for the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary location in Wynnewood; and a discussion on thanking individual NCBC board members who donated to the July 4th celebration in the fall newsletter.

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.