MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETING
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION & ZOOM
Zoom Account: 823 745 2538
Password: 850924
September 9, 2025
7:30pm

Attendance: Kay Sickles (President), Vanessa Coke Cohen (Vice-President), Jason Landau Goodman (Secretary), David Haas (Solicitor), Maxine Goldberg, Margaret Hunting, Sandy Kornhauser, Bill Krebs, Roger Moog, Randy Myer, Mark Prudente, Dan Russionello, Jim Remsen, Juan Rodríguez, Merle Zucker

Absent: Marion Williams (Treasurer), C. Aaron Gross (Past President), Anne Greenhalgh, Joseph Hirsch, Brian McGuire

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

CALL TO ORDER
ANNOUNCEMENTS, Kay Sickles

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Officer Sheilds provided a report on safety in the township. He noted incidents with thefts of Kia cars, increased security for local synagogues, and recruitment of new police officers.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Kay shared updates from Commissioner Rossman, including about the loud noises coming from the construction on Bala Avenue.

Commissioner Kramer noted that Lower Merion Police Department recruitment has been going well. She shared a summary of the Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop held on September 3, 2025 that highlighted the township running a deficit budget, with there having been no increase in real estate taxes in 13 years until last year, and that expenses have risen while real estate assessments have fallen, and with some buildings being torn down. Commissioner Kramer noted that the tax base overall is fairly steady. She also noted concerns with the deficit in the Solid Waste Fund.

Commissioner Kramer shared updates on the General Wayne Park plan and the work ahead for planning for the Bala Playground. It was noted that a local group should be assembled at a later time that could provide feedback to those involved in developing the plan. Finally, Commissioner Kramer shared the update that there still intends to be a master plan developed for Cynwyd Station Park. Roger asked about an update regarding the traffic calming study along Montgomery Avenue. Commissioner Kramer shared that the data has been gathered, and it is currently in analysis — with results expected by the end of 2025. Commissioner Kramer shared that she has been meeting with business owners in the Merion-Cynwyd business district in discussion to develop a Merion-Cynwyd Business Association, as a network to advocate for improvements to the district, which may include traffic calming.

Commissioner Woodring shared that a draft of a report on the development of the Rock Hill Road corridor should be published soon. It will include areas for Township staff to take action. He shared there will be opportunities for public comment. Commissioner Woodring shared that the Lower Merion Police Department is revamping their traffic calming policy, which should be available for distribution in November 2025.

Board members provided comments on various road works projects and asked the commissioners about the odor emanating from a property on Conshohocken State Road near the Cynwyd Train Station. Commissioner Kramer provided an update that the proposed ordinance regarding gas-powered leaf blowers will be circulated for informational purposes soon. Commissioner Kramer highlighted the upcoming budget workshops to be held by the Board of Commissioners for the rest of 2025.

Commissioner Kramer additionally noted that there will be a fall clean-up weekend from October 4-5, 2025, and that the following week will be Everything with a Plug drop off on October 12, 2025.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Nick Posillico — Main Street Manager at the City Avenue District

Nick introduced himself as the new Main Street Manager for the City Avenue District, as a team member working to advance the business improvement district. He shared information on the mission of the City Avenue District, the Bala Cynwyd Farmers Market, and the Bala Avenue Art Walk. Nick additionally shared that there will be free coffee pop-ups, networking opportunities, and other engagement opportunities in the near future. Nick also shared information about the topiaries that are now on display around the City Avenue District.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President Report, Kay Sickles
Kay discussed the logistics of the Neighborhood Club of Bala Cynwyd's participation with a vendor table at the Bala Avenue Arts Walk, taking place on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Kay highlighted the upcoming movie night by NCBC on Friday, September 19, 2025, at the Cynwyd Station Park, organized by Juan and Mark. The event will be promoted through local networks, and the rain location will be the Union Fire Association.

Kay noted that it is currently nomination season for NCBC Board member positions. She shared information about Jillian Dierks and her recent interview with several board members. Kay shared that Jillian is being considered to fill a vacancy on the board as a board member will be cycling off at the end of 2025.

Kay highlighted the importance of identifying the next coordinator of the NCBC newsletter, and the importance of having them be mentored by the current newsletter organizer Jim.

Kay thanked the Board for all their work on the July 4th celebration, and most notably Anne who was unable to be there at the meeting. Kay noted that the event recovered its expenses and a full report will be shared at a later time. Vanessa noted that NCBC should have more dedicated spaces at July 4th and other venue such as the Bala Cynwyd Farmers Market to encourage membership to the civic association.

Secretary Report, Jason Landau Goodman
Kay moved to adopt the minutes as presented for April, May, and June 2025. Roger seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Merle inquired about parking concerns at shopping centers in Lower Merion — when patrons of businesses nearby to each other but not in the same complex have their cars towed if they do not also move their car.

Jonah from Representative Mary Jo Daley's office shared that there will be a license plat restoration event in Whitemarsh Township on Saturday, October 11, 2025 and a free shredding event on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at St. Lutheran Church in Whitemarsh

There was a discussion on the further development proposals for the parking lot at One Belmont — which may include restaurants — and comments about the design quality of the proposed buildings.

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting.