

MAY 8, 2018

Bluemle Building Room 101

Washington Square West Civic Association

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to order by the President Rick Spitzborg at 7:00.
- II. Attendance: (1) Robert Sher, (2) Tami Sortman, (3) Judy Ron, (4) Jonathan Broh, (5) Carl Engelke, (6) Rick Spitzborg, (7) Lyric Chen, (8) Neal Pratt, (9) Deb Sweeney (10) Robin Gauri

Absent: (11)Sukrit Goswami*, (12)Judy Applebaum* 3 vacant seats – 7 Board members needed for a Quorum.

*Prior Notice Provided

- III. Approval of the Minutes from April 10, 2018.
- IV. Opening Statement by the President, timeline of bike lane events leading to today, introduction of guest presenters for an update on street safety improvements for Pine and Spruce Street:

Michael Carroll - Deputy Managing Director for Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (oTIS)

Jeannette Brubger – Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator (oTIS)

Casey Ross – Transportation Planner (oTIS)

- Spruce & Pine Streets are scheduled for repaving in the fall by the city.
- This is an opportunity to look at all aspects of the street use.
- Proposed, shift parking from left to right side of streets
- Proposed, shift bike lanes from right to left side of streets as would be the city policy for all current and future bike lanes
- Upgrade street markings and signage as well as intersection markings.
- Replace meters with kiosks or eliminate meters on some blocks.
- Unneeded meter poles and signs to be removed and flush with sidewalk.
- City is planning budget and staff for future maintenance of the lanes
- Would not be “protected bike lanes”
- Parking change requires city ordinance to be introduced by the Councilman’s Office.
- Bike lane improvements do not require an ordinance.
- Committee hearing on the Ordinances to be held in June, all people are welcome to attend and comment.

- oTIS has made several other public meetings regarding the bike lanes.
- oTIS has met with representatives of the Civic Association on multiple occasions to discuss concerns of the residents and the Association.
- This is a corridor wide project and cannot be implemented block by block.
- Continued meetings with residents could be held to work on details of implementation.
- No changes for North South lanes in WashWest at this time.
- The Civic Association has been asked by oTIS to formally support the proposed Ordinances.

The presentation was followed by questions from the Board Members and by questions from community members present at the meeting. Comments and questions reflected residents both for and against the proposal.

The Board broke for an Executive Conference while oTIS continued discussion with the community.

Upon return the President made a statement confirming Civic support for the introduction of the ordinances subject to several conditions:
(See below for the complete statement and details).

Spruce & Pine Streets Re-Paving and Safety Project

At its May 8, 2018 meeting the Washington Square West Civic Association board gave conditional support to the proposed Spruce & Pine Streets Re-Paving and Safety Project, as presented by oTIS. The two conditions which are necessary for full support are (1) the satisfactory completion of meetings between oTIS and the majority of Wash West stakeholders and (2) a commitment to the full implementation of the complementary sidewalk enhancements. The WSWCA encourages residents and businesses to participate in the proposed block-by-block meetings and to express themselves at the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Streets and Services hearing in June, date TBD. (The Project requires City Council approval and the approval from this committee is necessary before Council can take a vote).

- V. Following the presentation the meeting continued with brief committee reports.
- VI. Zoning – 3 projects for the May 22 meeting
 - a. 1233 Pine Street
 - b. 1217 Spruce Street
 - c. 217 S. Jessup Street
- VII. Discussion on budget / membership and the impact on street cleaning. A decision was made to authorize every week street cleaning to commence in June and continue through October.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:00.