

Washington Square West Civic Association

**ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 14, 2020

Bluemle Life Sciences Bldg. Room 105

- I. Call to order by the President, Neal Pratt at 7:00 PM
- II. Attendance: 1. Deb Sweeney, 2. Catalina Gonzalez, 3. Neal Pratt, 4. Robert Sher, 5. Tami Sortman, 6. Rick Spitzborg, 7. Jonathan Broh, 8. Carl Engelke
- IV. Public Comment

A community member commented on the Clean Up Day 2019. They stated that publicity regarding the event was appreciated and hope that in 2020 those parking on the streets will comply fully and move their cars accordingly.

- V. President's Report given by Neal Pratt

Neal thanked Rick for his service as WSWCA president.

Pedestrian safety concerns were expressed regarding the 11th Street construction. Neal spoke with the construction manager. A crosswalk with traffic control should be established at 11th and Clover. Discussion and investigation continue.

Jeweler's Row Historic District submitted a request to the Historic Commission to designate buildings as historic, The Historic Commission Meeting is scheduled for 2/14.

**Rep. Brian Sims will be at the 2/11 board meeting to discuss his role and how he can support his constituents.**

Neighborhood safety concerns were discussed. A PSA meeting is held every second Tuesday at 6PM at Pennsylvania Hospital auditorium. Residents are encouraged to attend. Residents are advised to call 911 with any safety concerns and to be aware of their surroundings. It is suggested that cell phone use while walking be avoided to optimize awareness.

- III. Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2019 meeting.
- VI. Treasure's Report.

In 2019 WSWCA operated with a balanced budget operation. Budget operation for 2020 is contingent on membership and donations. Currently there is \$17,000 in membership dues and contributions total \$19,060. Further discussion will be held at the February meeting once there is more information regarding contributions as a result of the Annual Fund Campaign (ending 3/15) and other neighborhood contributions and donations.

- VII. Committee Reports:

Annual fund emails have gone out with thank you letters. Potential donors will continue to be notified through March 13, 2020.

Updated Website will be launched. A training session will be held for board members.

Cross town coalition discussed short term rentals. The City of Philadelphia Law Department is currently reviewing the ability to regulate short-term rental properties..

The greening and tree planting committee strives to meet a goal that 30% of the city be covered by a tree umbrella. Washington Square West is not yet at 30%. Reinvigorating the tree tenders group was discussed as part of the effort to reach this goal.

X. Zoning:

505 S 9th St. is expected to request an increase in density zoning.

BarX is requesting a meeting with the WAWCA to discuss issues expressed by neighboring residents. BarX closing activity has been reported and an issue.

242 S 8 St. has applied for a business application.

WSWCA is continuing to take steps to extend boundaries from the south side of Chestnut St. north to the south side of Market St.

The owner of Writer's Block Rehab has shared with WSWCA his intent to acquire the property and associated liquor license at 208 S 13th Street.

The WSWCQ has written a letter of support to the Board of Revision of Taxes indicating our support for the reinstatement of the tax-exempt status for the Plastic Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM by Neal Pratt.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

**~The WSWC always welcomes and encourages the public to attend meetings. The Civic is in need of individuals willing to be involved in the Civic activities and to serve on the various committees.~**

